TOKYOPOP
Suguro Chayamachi
TOGAINU NO CHI
6

Manga
Action
US $12.99
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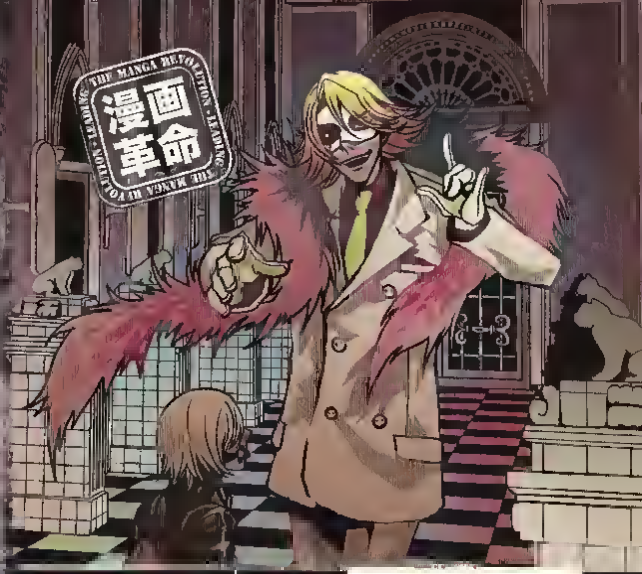
Bloodied and broken by countless fights, Akira escapes from the captivity enforced by his Line-crazed best friend-turned-torturer Keisuke only to be imprisoned again—this time in Toshima's castle! There, as a token of goodwill, Toshima's perverse head honcho offers Akira some very unwelcome information about Akira and Keisuke's past, which reveals the secret behind Akira's relationship with Line! But it seems another ghost from the past will stop at nothing to access Akira's special abilities...

THE MANGA REVOLUTION LEADING THE MANGA REVOLUTION

漫画革命



OT
9+ TEEN
AGE 13+

MATURE CONTENT
MAY INCLUDE:
MODERATE VIOLENCE
MODERATE GORE
ACCIDENTAL REVEALING
TOUCHED FLOWERS

ACTION

ISBN 978-1-1278 1796-3

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TOGAINU NO CHI™

Volume 6

Suguro Chayamachi
and
Nitro+ CHiRAL

Togainu no Chi Volume 6

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First published in Japan in 2008 by ENTERBRAIN, INC., Tokyo
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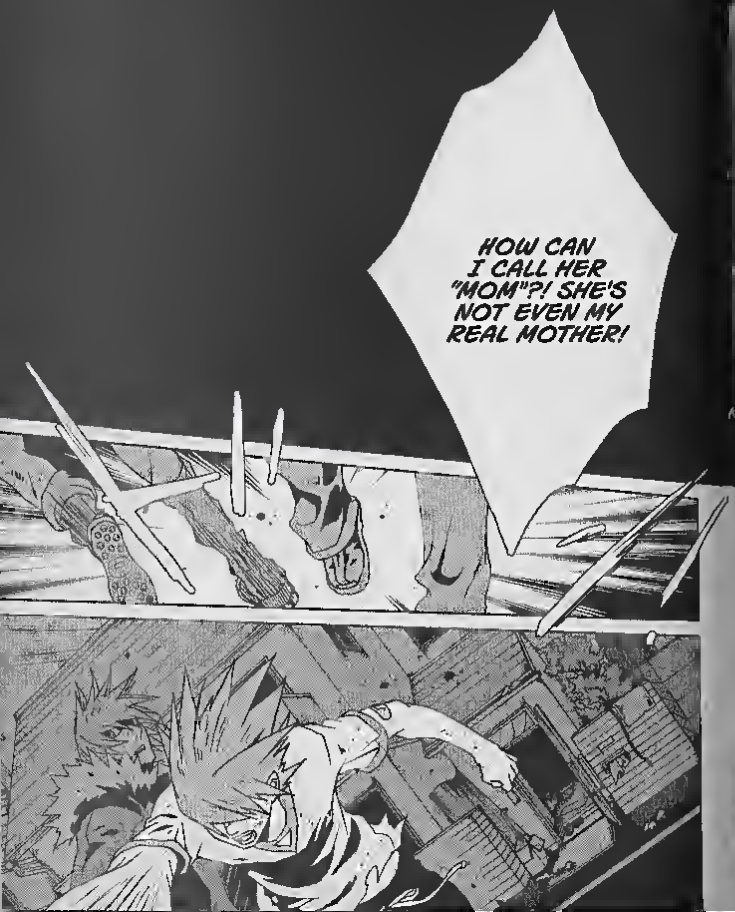
ISBN: 978-1-4278-1756-3

First TOKYOPOP printing: December 2010
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in the USA

DogTag:27



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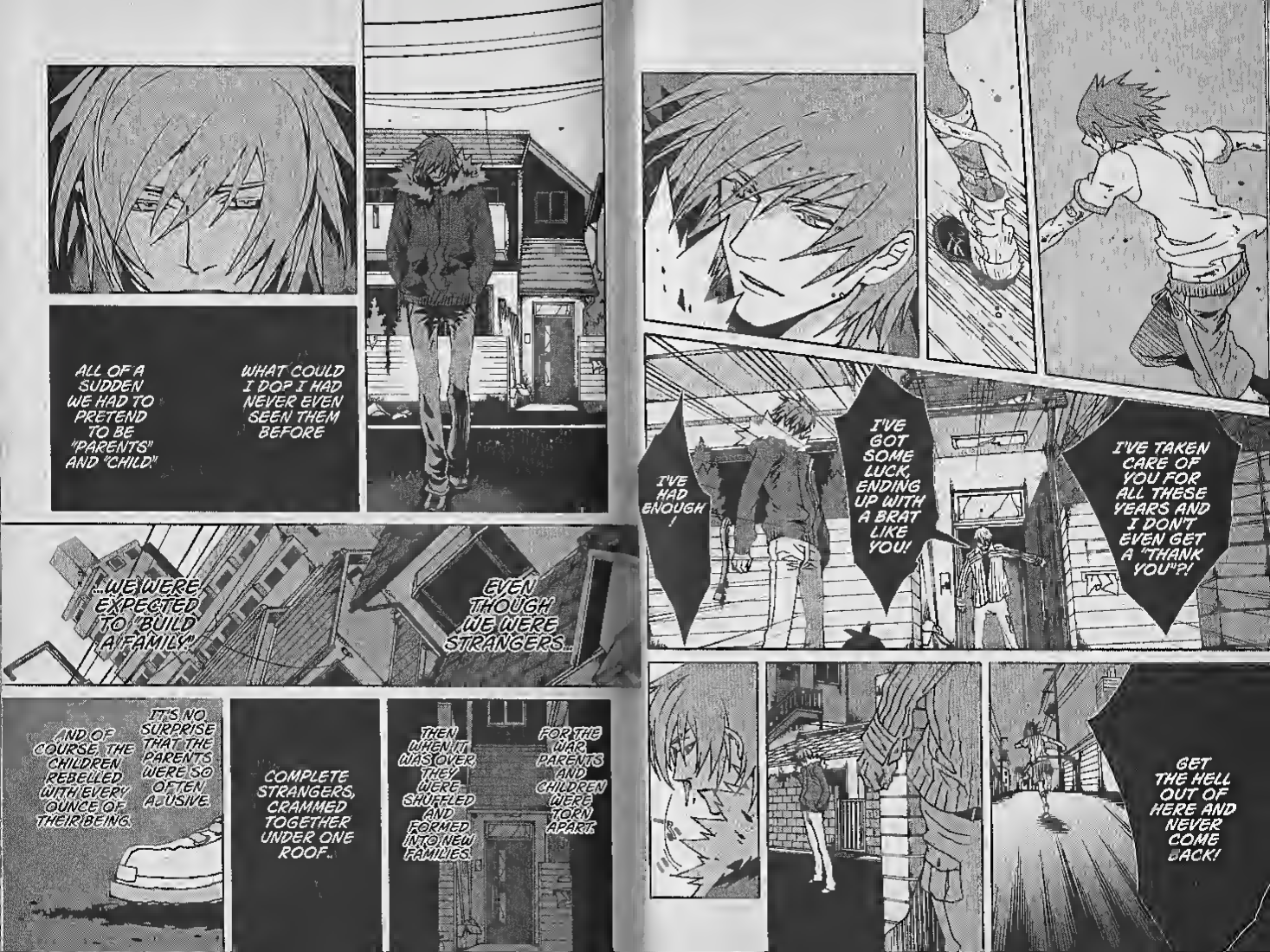
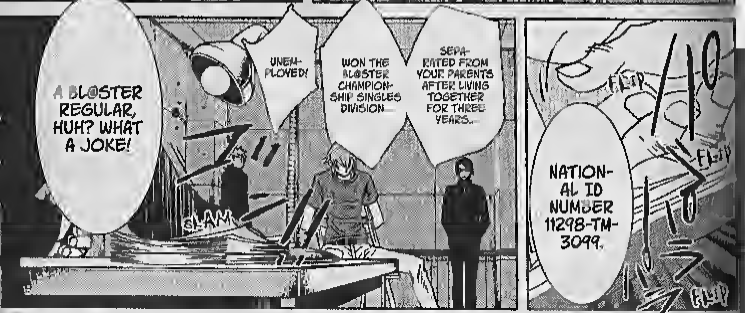
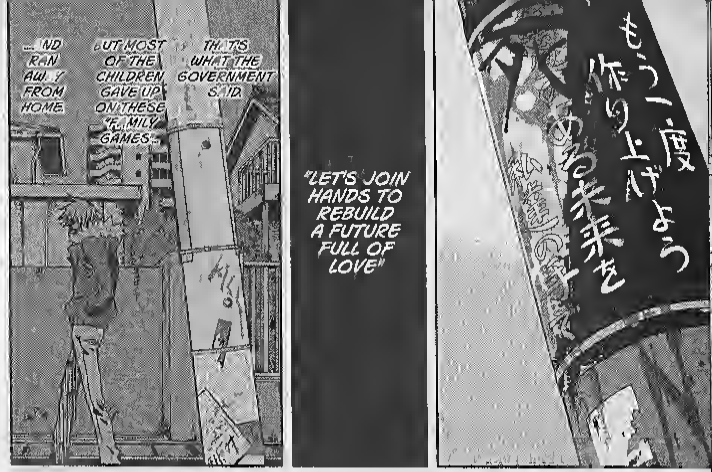

ALL OF A SUDDEN WE HAD TO PRETEND TO BE "PARENTS" AND "CHILD."
WHAT COULD I DO? I HAD NEVER EVEN SEEN THEM BEFORE
...WE WERE EXPECTED TO "BUILD A FAMILY."
EVEN THOUGH WE WERE STRANGERS...
AND OF COURSE, THE CHILDREN REBELLED WITH EVERY OUNCE OF THEIR BEING.
IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT THE PARENTS WERE SO OFTEN ABUSIVE.
COMPLETE STRANGERS, CRAMMED TOGETHER UNDER ONE ROOF.
THEN WHEN IT WAS OVER, THEY WERE SHUFFLED AND FORMED INTO NEW FAMILIES.
FOR THE WAR, PARENTS AND CHILDREN WERE TORN APART.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
I'VE GOT SOME LUCK, ENDING UP WITH A BRAT LIKE YOU!
I'VE TAKEN CARE OF YOU FOR ALL THESE YEARS AND I DON'T EVEN GET A "THANK YOU"?!
GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE AND NEVER COME BACK!

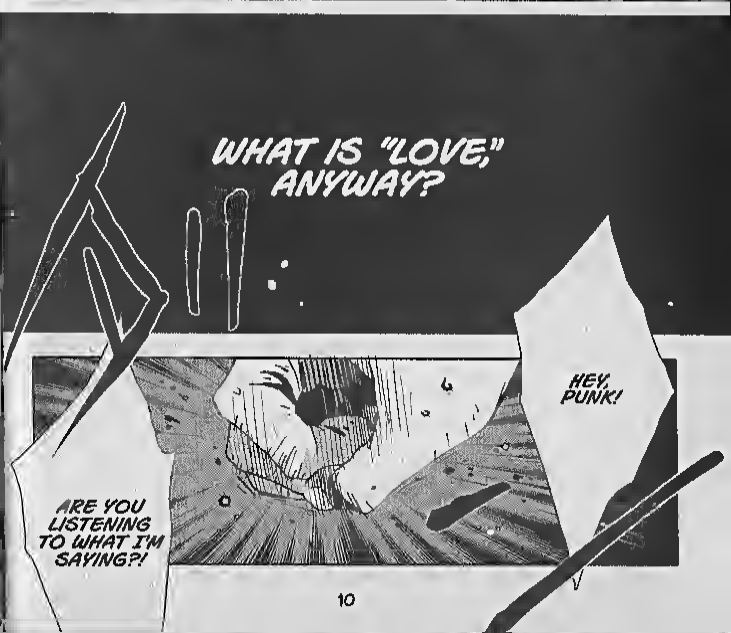
WE ALL KNOW YOU KILLED HIM!
STOP WASTING MY TIME AND CONFESS ALREADY!

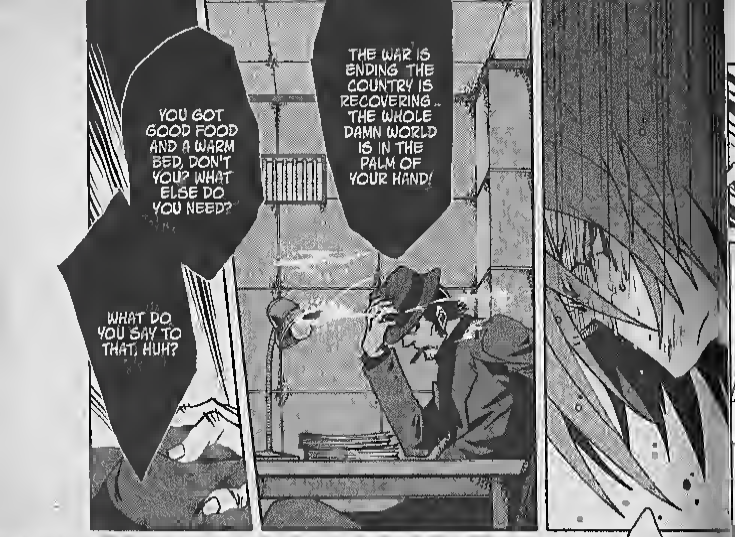

A BLOSTER REGULAR, HUH? WHAT A JOKE!
UNEMPLOYED!
WON THE BLOSTER CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES DIVISION...
SEPARATED FROM YOUR PARENTS AFTER LIVING TOGETHER FOR THREE YEARS...
SLAM

NATIONAL ID NUMBER 11298-TM-3099.
FLIP
FLIP

AND IT SAYS HERE THAT YOU DROPPED OUT OF VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, TOO? IS THE BLOSTER SO MUCH FUN THAT IT'S WORTH THROWING YOUR LIFE AWAY?
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH GRIEF YOU'RE CAUSING THEM?
AND IT AIN'T LIKE YOUR MOTHER WAS SOME WICKED WITCH, EITHER. WHY'D YOU RUN AWAY FROM A LOVING HOME?


...ND RAN AW..Y FROM HOME.
...UT MOST OF THE CHILDREN GAVE UP ON THESE "F..MILY GAMES."
TH..TS WHAT THE GOVERNMENT S..ID.
"LET'S JOIN HANDS TO REBUILD A FUTURE FULL OF LOVE"


WHAT IS "LOVE," ANYWAY?
HEY, PUNK!
ARE YOU LISTENING TO WHAT I'M SAYING?!


THE WAR IS ENDING THE COUNTRY IS RECOVERING... THE WHOLE DAMN WORLD IS IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND!
YOU GOT GOOD FOOD AND A WARM BED, DON'T YOU? WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED?
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT, HUH?
I...
...DIDN'T DO IT.
IN THE END, STRANGERS ARE STILL STRANGERS

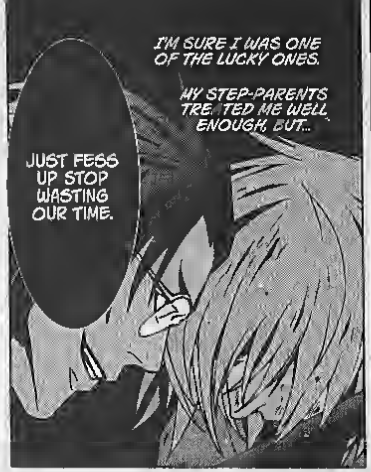
"LET'S JOIN HANDS TO REBUILD A FUTURE FULL OF LOVE."

WHACK
THE VICTIM'S CAUSE OF DEATH IS BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA, AS INDICATED BY A SERIES OF BRUISES COVERING HIS BODY.
NGH
...NOT REALLY

YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU, DON'T YOU?
NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO BRING THE FIGHT OUTSIDE THE RING, HUH? PATHETIC.
IS THAT ALL YOU PUNKS ARE GOOD FOR? BASHING IN EACH OTHER'S HEADS?
WHO ELSE COULD'VE KILLED HIM?!
HE WAS A BLASTER REGULAR, NO LESS
YOU WERE FOUND 200 METERS FROM THE CRIME SCENE WITH NO ALIBI
HE DIED AT THREE AM

OH YEAH...?
THEN WHY DON'T YOU LIVE IN IT?
C'MON, STAND UP!
YOU'RE GONNA LOVE YOUR NEW ROOM. SURE BEATS THAT DOG HOUSE YOU WERE LIVING IN BEFORE.

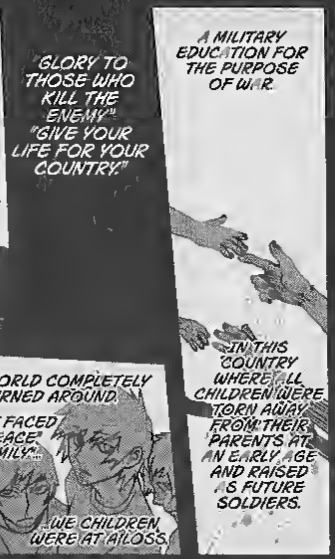
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A RABID MUTT, AREN'T YOU?!
WHACK
THWACK
CRACK
WHAT'S THE MATTER?! NOT SO TOUGH NOW, ARE YOU?!
WELL, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU BITE YOUR MASTER!



WHAT IS "FAMILY," ANYWAY?

AT FIRST THE BLOSTER WAS HELD ON THE STREETS, BUT AS MORE AND MORE KIDS TURNED TO IT, THE EVENTS BEGAN TO GROW IN SIZE.
KIDS WHO LOST THEIR CHANCE TO FIGHT.
KIDS WHO COULDN'T STAND THEIR FALSE FAMILIES...
KIDS WHO WERE BURNING WITH AMBITION...
WE CAME TOGETHER TO THE BLOSTER.
WE BURIED EMOTIONS THAT HAD NOWHERE TO GO.

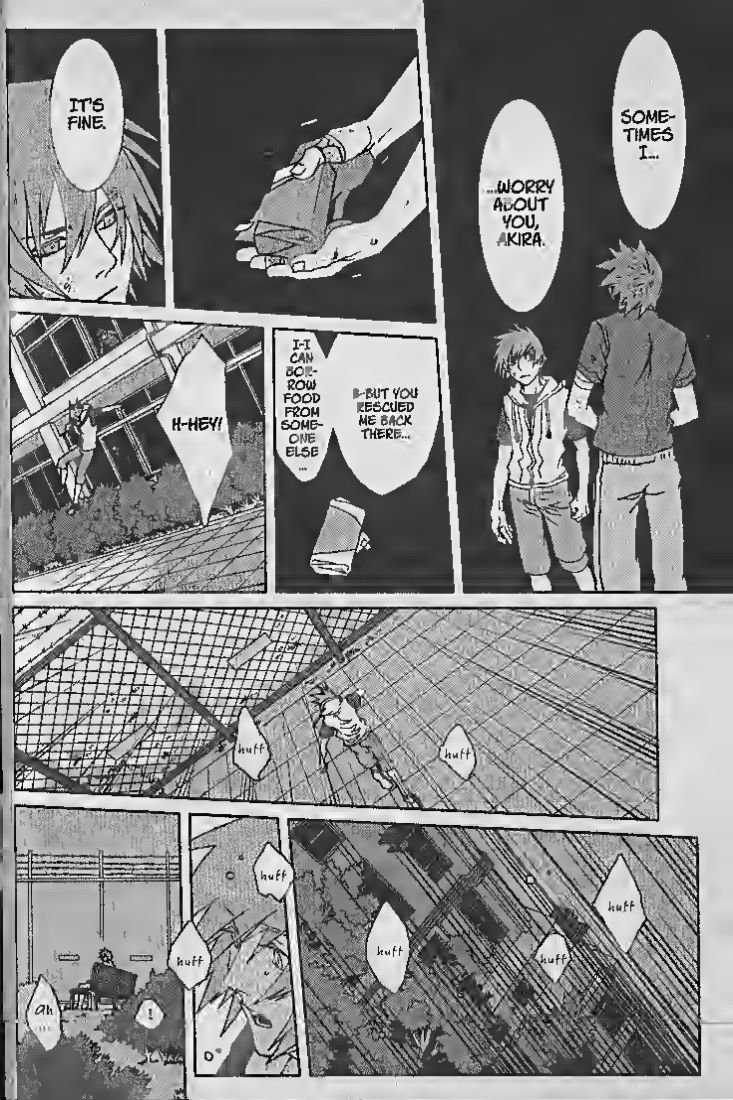
ALL OF THEM HUNGRY.


GLORY TO THOSE WHO KILL THE ENEMY."
"GIVE YOUR LIFE FOR YOUR COUNTRY."
A MILITARY EDUCATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF WAR.
I WAS TAUGHT HOW TO FACE WAR AND DEATH.
IN THIS COUNTRY WHERE ALL CHILDREN WERE TORN AWAY FROM THEIR PARENTS AT AN EARLY AGE AND RAISED AS FUTURE SOLDIERS.

WHAT IS "PEACE," ANYWAY?

OH... AH... I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT ABOUT HIM.
BY THE WAY, I SAW THAT "GOOD-FOR-NOTHING" BOSS OF YOURS.
YOU SEEM TO BE DOING OKAY. I'M GLAD.
IS IT BECAUSE OF WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY? I'M SORRY...
I WAS JUST PASSING BY, THAT'S ALL.
DID YOU COME BY TO CHECK ON ME OR SOMETHING?
WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO SHOW UP AT MY WORK ALL OF A SUDDEN
HE STILL DOESN'T LET ME OPERATE THE MACHINERY, THOUGH...
HE SAID "YOU DON'T EAT ENOUGH VEGETABLES." HE LOOKS SCARY, BUT I GUESS HE'S NOT SO BAD
BROCCOLI..?
I MEAN, HE JUST GAVE ME SOME BROCCOLI FOR LUNCH
GUESS I GOTTA WORK A LITTLE HARDER, HUH?
I GET WORRIED.. ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT
IF I LEAVE YOU ALONE, YOU'LL JUST SLEEP ALL DAY WITHOUT EATING A THING!
NO, I DO!
IT'S FINE. YOU DON'T NEED TO COME BY EVERY DAY
TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT FOR LUNCH AND I'LL MAKE IT FOR YOU
OH, SPEAKING OF FOOD...
AKIRA!

huff
huff
huff
huff
huff
huff
huff
IF I TOOK HIS HAND...
...AND RAN...
AH...
...NGH...
...IT TH..T MOMENT...
Ah...
!
...WOULD WE...


IT'S FINE.
...WORRY ABOUT YOU, AKIRA.
SOME-TIMES I...
H-HEY!
I-I CAN BOR-ROW FOOD FROM SOME-ONE ELSE ...
B-BUT YOU RESCUED ME BACK THERE...
huff
huff
huff
huff
huff
huff
huff
Ah...
!

"I WORKED HARD, JUST LIKE I SAID I WOULD."
"I KNOW IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT THEY REALLY PUT ME THROUGH THE RINGER"
"NOW THEY LET ME USE SCREWDRIVERS, AT LEAST"
...NGH...
...GHH...

...NGH...
HFF
...GHHH...
...NGH...
...H...?
JUNGLE

I FOUND YOUUU...
...PRINCESS.

MISOZNI
...KLEIN

sn-ff
sn ff
?!

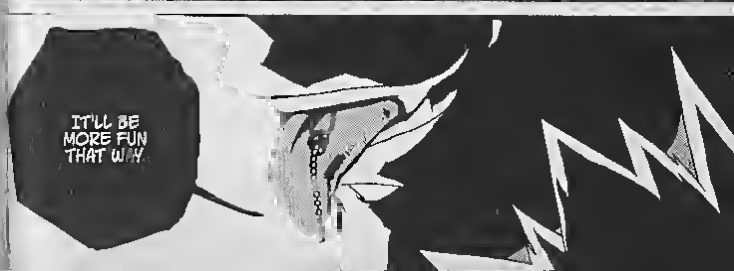
IS THAT HIM?

HUH?
GUESS I LOST MY GRIP.
YOUR PRINCE IS WAITING FOR YOU AT THE CASTLE.
augh!!
DUNNO HOW YOU GET BY WITH SUCH SKINNY LEGS.
THEY'RE LIKE BURDOCK.
GUYS LIKE YOU NEED TO LEARN YOUR LIMITS. YOU PROBABLY KICKED TOO HARD AND PASSED OUT!
HE'S... GOING TO KILL ME.
THE LITTLE PRINCESS WITH THE FAKE TAGS...
OR MAYBE YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE GUYS WHO JUST SITS ON THE SIDELINES AND WATCHES?

DogTag:28
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

SCREAM.
STRUGGLE ALL YOU WANT.
GO AHEAD AND CRY
LET ME GO..!
LET ME..

C'MON.
LET IT ALLL OUT.
CRY.
CRY RIGHT INTO MY EAR I DON'T MIND
YOU'VE GOT A NICE VOICE

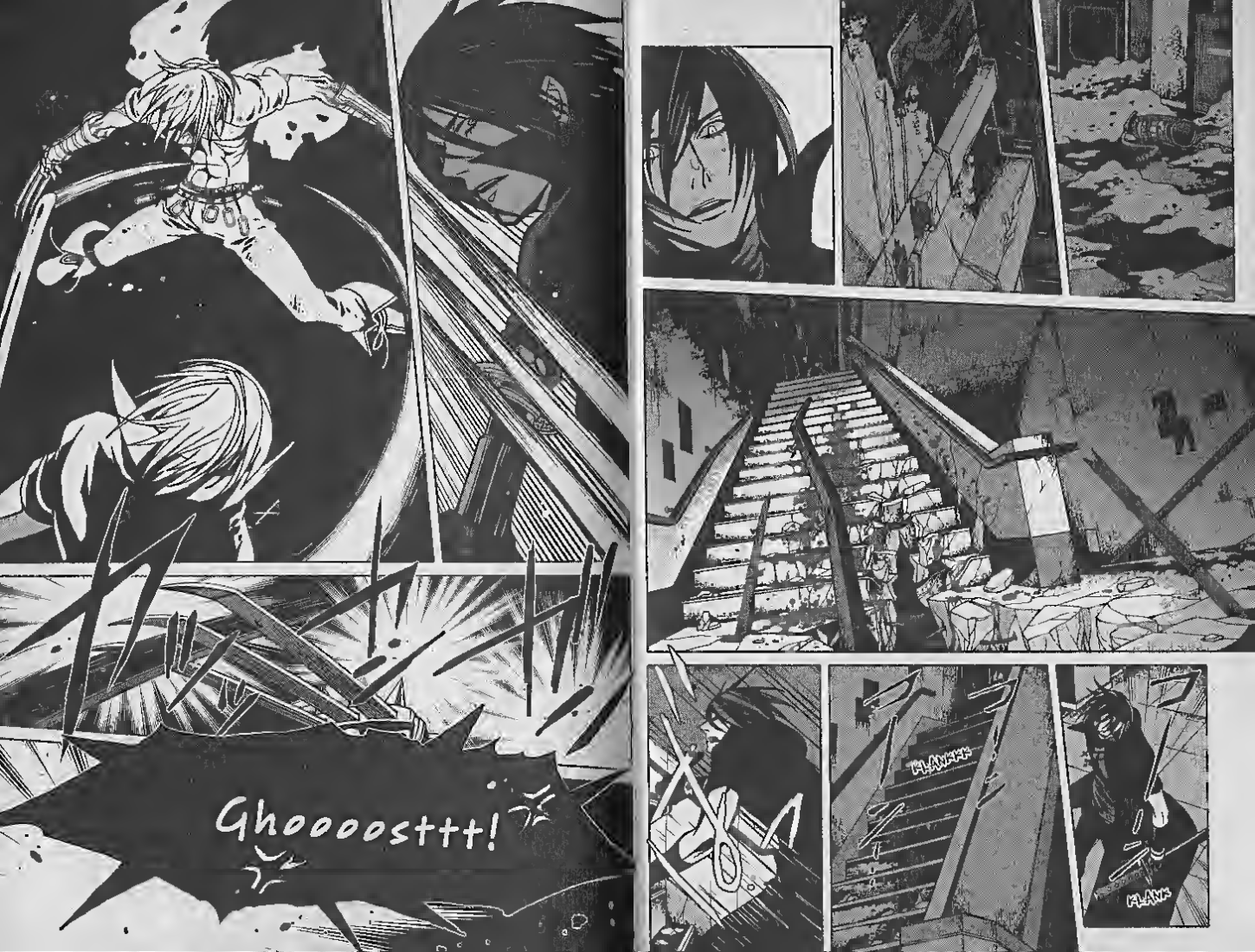

IT'LL BE MORE FUN THAT WAY

Rinse
...cut up the garbage
Then Repeat
WHACK
Whoa!
Ugh!

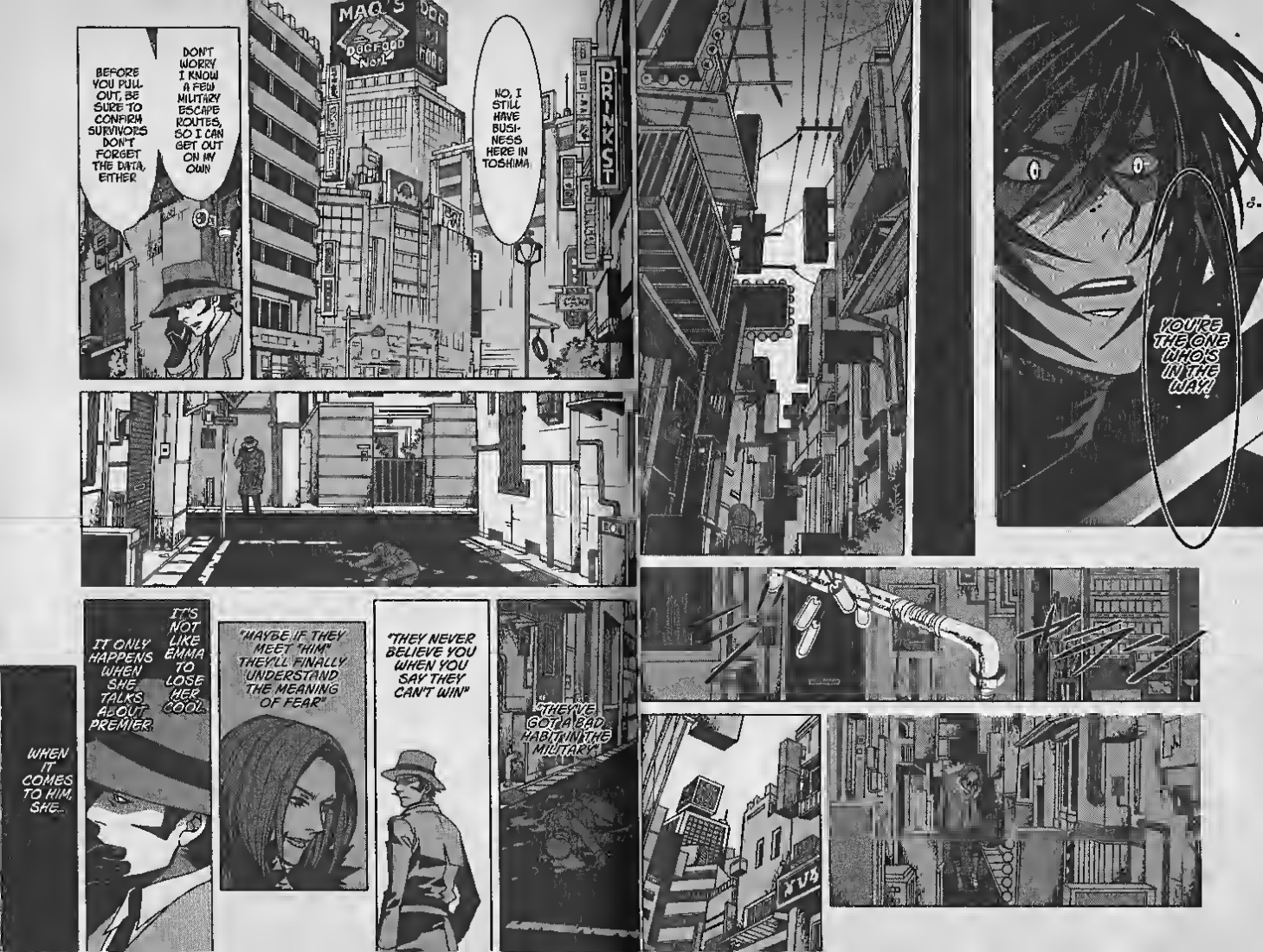
PREMIER!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
Hya ha ha ha!!
Ha ha!
KLANK
KLANK
KLANK

Snap
GOTCH'!
MR. GHOOST!
Hnnhh!
Gya ha!
Ohhh

aahh!
Ahh!
?!


Ghoooosttt!
KLANK
KLANK

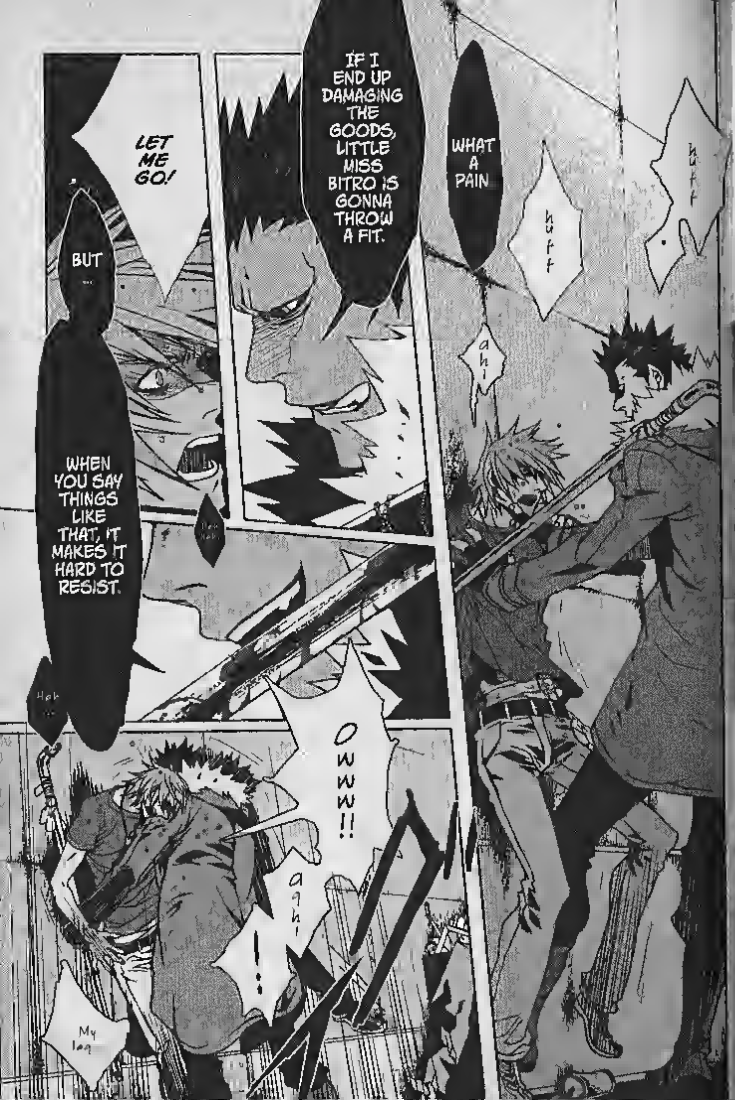
I got the wrong guy!
DAMN IT!
WHAT GHOST?
Shut up! I'm in a hurry!
WHERE DID THE GHOST GO?!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR POPPING OUT OF NOWHERE!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, SHIKIT!!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU WANNA SLASH UP THE REST OF THE GARBAGE, BUT THAT GHOST IS MINE!
OUTTA MY WAY!

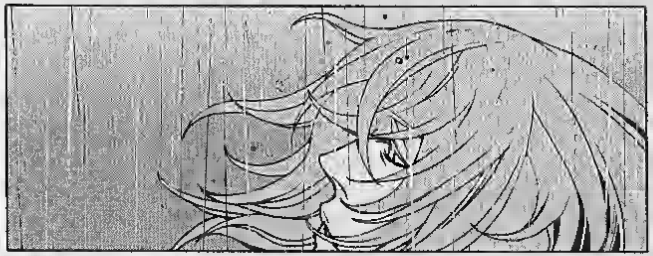

DON'T WORRY I KNOW A FEW MILITARY ESCAPE ROUTES, SO I CAN GET OUT ON MY OWN
BEFORE YOU PULL OUT, BE SURE TO CONFIRM SURVIVORS DON'T FORGET THE DATA, EITHER
MAO'S DOGFOOD No.1
NO, I STILL HAVE BUSINESS HERE IN TOSHIMA
DRINK
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S IN THE WAY!
IT'S NOT LIKE EMMA TO LOSE HER COOL
IT ONLY HAPPENS WHEN SHE TALKS ABOUT PREMIER
WHEN IT COMES TO HIM, SHE...
"MAYBE IF THEY MEET "HIM" THEY'LL FINALLY UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF FEAR"
"THEY NEVER BELIEVE YOU WHEN YOU SAY THEY CAN'T WIN"
"THEY'VE GOT A BAD HABIT IN THE MILITARY"

AFTER DESTROYING THE RESEARCH FACILITY, HE TOOK OFF ON HIS OWN. NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN.
HE SUDDENLY WENT BERSERK, SLAUGHTERING LAB TECHNICIANS AND TEST SUBJECTS ALIKE.
WHEN THE WAR HAD ALMOST ENDED, A TEST SUBJECT ESCAPED FROM THE NICOLE LABORATORY.
BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG THAT AURA
HE'S HIGH ON LINE.
WAIT A SEC...!
?!
SHE LOST HER LEFT ARM TO PREMIER
"I WANT TO CAPTURE HIM BEFORE THE MILITARY DOES."
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT EMMA'S ATTACHMENT TO PREMIER CAME FROM A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY. SHE HAD BEEN IN CHARGE OF HIM, AFTER ALL...
OF COURSE, IF HE WAS CAPTURED, HE WOULD BE UNDER MILITARY CUSTODY FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE
AS ONE OF THE FEW SURVIVING NICOLE SPECIMENS, IT WOULDN'T BE PRETTY

BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR HIT, THE CFC NEEDED A SUBJECT COMPATIBLE WITH HIGH-CONCEN-TRATION LINE.

IF WORSE CAME TO WORST AND WE LOST PREMIER...


LET ME GO!
BUT...
WHEN YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, IT MAKES IT HARD TO RESIST.
IF I END UP DAMAGING THE GOODS, LITTLE MISS BITRO IS GONNA THROW A FIT.
WHAT A PAIN
huff
huff
ahi
Heh
owww!!
aah!
!!
My leg



..I MIGHT HAVE TO BEAT IT OUT OF YOU
HEH HEH.. 'CAUSE IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME A GOOD ONE..
C'MON, I WANNA HEAR YOU SCREAM SOME MORE.
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO HOLD BACK ALL OF A SUDDEN?
Heh heh heh
LET'S SEE HOW LONG YOU LAST.
HAVE IT YOUR WAY

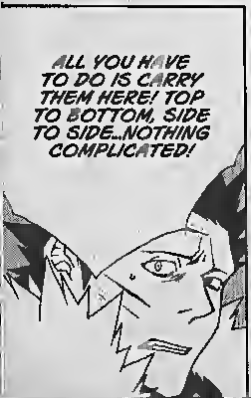
STOP IT..
I WANNA PICK YOU UP AND BREAK YOU LIKE A LITTLE DOLL.
LET ME.
auuuhh!
..IT MAKES ME HARD.
WHEN I FEEL ITS HEAT.
STICKY, CREAMY.. MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH
BLOOD SURE IS SWEET, AIN'T IT?

LEAVING THE NEST?
FALLING FROM THE SKY, HUH, LITTLE CHICKIE?
CLANG
OH, SORRY DID I DO THAT?
WELL, WHATEVER
CMON, MOVE, MOVE
SHIT!

"THAT'S THE SAME AS DEATH."
"IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO IL-RE..."
"IT'S JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU."
"IF YOU FAIL, THEN YOUR LIFE IS OVER."
IT'S OVER.
THE MISSION HAS FAILED.
DogTag29
"YOU'RE NO LONGER USEFUL TO US."
"WE'LL FIND SOMEONE ELSE."
WAIT! I'M STILL NOT--
Let me go...!!
DOG FOOD

WHY IS IT THAT EVERY TIME I ASK YOU PEOPLE TO DELIVER SOMETHING, IT ALWAYS GETS BROKEN? DAMAGED GOODS, EVERY TIME! AND HERE WE ARE AGAIN...
HONESTLY, CAN'T YOU COMPLETE EVEN THE MOST MUNDANE OF TASKS?
NEXT TIME, YOU CAN POP YOUR OWN DAMN JOINTS BACK INTO PLACE.
TWITCH
SHUT UP, SHUT UP, SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!
HUH? IT WASN'T ME...

RRRGH!
OWW...
HEY, ASSHOLE! DON'T SCRATCH ME!


ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CARRY THEM HERE! TOP TO BOTTOM, SIDE TO SIDE...NOTHING COMPLICATED!

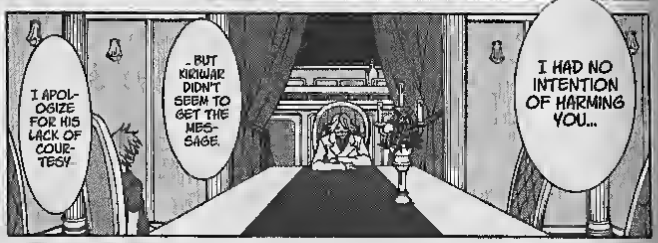
WELL, I'M SICK OF IT!
NOTHING BUT EXCUSES, EXCUSES, EXCUSES! NEVER A HINT OF REGRET!

I SEE. HE DRAGGED ME ALL THE WAY HERE.
OWW
THIS IS... THE VISCHIO'S CASTLE?

LOOK AT THIS...I'M BLEEDING. BLEEDING!
SHIT!

OUCH!
THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA RIP MY EARS OFF!
I PUT YOUR JOINTS BACK IN PLACE, AND THIS IS WHAT I GET?

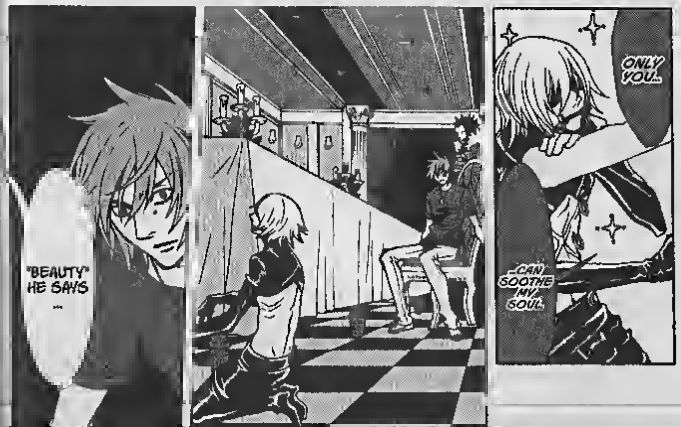
WELCOME TO MY CASTLE.
WHAT?
I DON'T GET IT.
YOU SAY "GUEST," BUT YOU MEAN "SLAVE."
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
FORGIVE MY OUTBURST.
SLAVE?

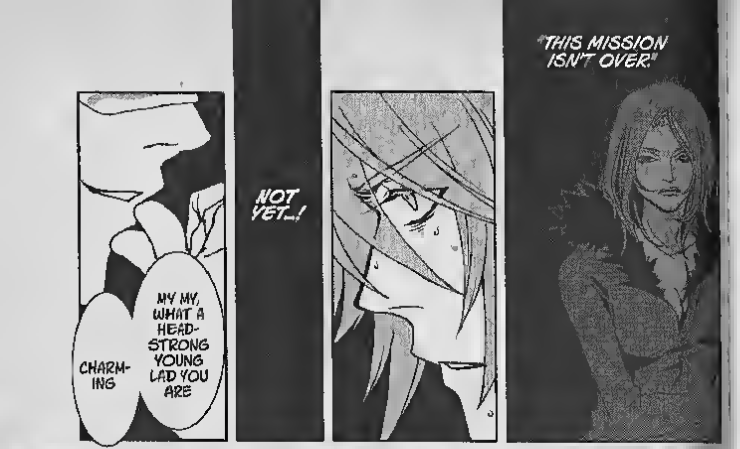

I APOLOGIZE FOR HIS LACK OF COURTESY.
-BUT KIRIWAR DIDN'T SEEM TO GET THE MESSAGE.
I HAD NO INTENTION OF HARMING YOU...

AND WHY AM I A "GUEST"?
EXCELLENT
I SEE THAT YOUR LEGS ARE WORKING AGAIN
I HOPE YOU CAN FORGIVE HIM. WE'RE SO HAPPY TO HAVE YOU AS A GUEST.
AS YOU CAN SEE, HE EVEN FORGOT THE INVITATION.

YOU HAVE NO APPRECIATION FOR ART... FOR THE BEAUTY THAT I HAVE PAINSTAKINGLY ASSEMBLED!
OOOH, K.U.!

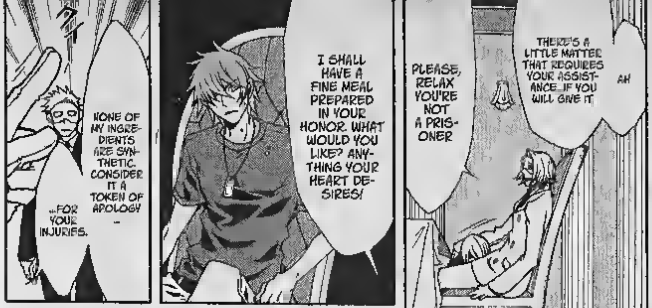
LEFT TO RIGHT, RIGHT TO LEFT...YOU ALWAYS MANAGE TO BREAK THEM!
HE'S MAD ABOUT THE STATUES.
OHHH!
BUT THEN WE COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHICH ARMS AND LEGS WENT WITH WHICH STATUE.
"IT WAS A PAIN MOVING THEM ONE BY ONE SO WE TOOK THEM ALL APART AND MOVED THEM TOGETHER.
WHEN WE'RE DONE MOVING, I'M EXECUTING EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU!
LISTEN UP!

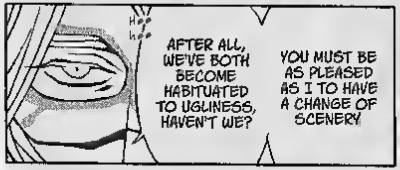

"BEAUTY" HE SAYS ...
ONLY YOU...
CAN SOOTHE MY SOUL.

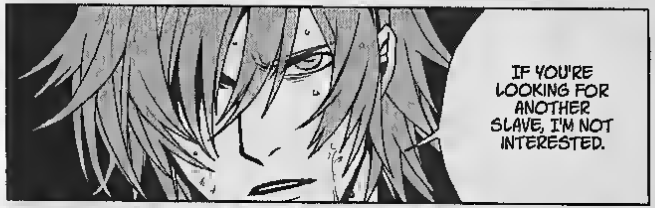

"THIS MISSION ISN'T OVER."
NOT YET...!
MY MY, WHAT A HEADSTRONG YOUNG LAD YOU ARE
CHARMING

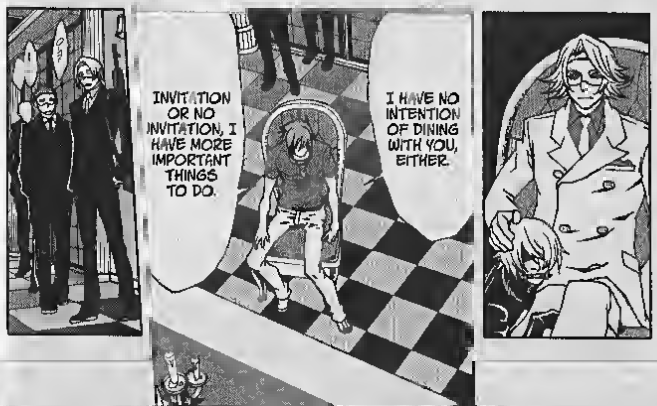
BUT ARE YOU SURE? IF YOU LEAVE NOW,
...WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TALK ABOUT THAT FRIEND OF YOURS, WHO'S RUNNING AMOK OUTSIDE.

I'D ALSO LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR TABS.
MY DOG IS TELLING ME THAT THEY DON'T CARRY THE VISCHIO SMELL.


...FOR YOUR INJURIES.
NONE OF MY INGREDIENTS ARE SYNTHETIC. CONSIDER IT A TOKEN OF APOLOGY -
I SHALL HAVE A FINE MEAL PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE? ANYTHING YOUR HEART DESIRES!
PLEASE, RELAX YOU'RE NOT A PRISONER
THERE'S A LITTLE MATTER THAT REQUIRES YOUR ASSISTANCE. IF YOU WILL GIVE IT
AH

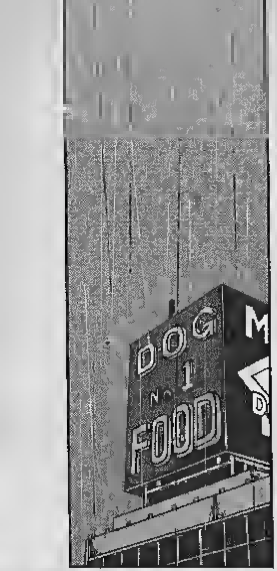

HAP HAP
AFTER ALL, WE'VE BOTH BECOME HABITUATED TO UGLINESS, HAVEN'T WE?
YOU MUST BE AS PLEASED AS I TO HAVE A CHANGE OF SCENERY.


IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ANOTHER SLAVE, I'M NOT INTERESTED.


INVITATION OR NO INVITATION, I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DINING WITH YOU, EITHER.

THAT'S RIGHT.
MY BLOOD?!
OH... DID THAT STRIKE A CHORD WITH YOU?
WHY? I DON'T GET IT!
THERE WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE LINE IN THAT SYRINGE, WOULD THERE?
NGH
OF COURSE NOT.
ALTHOUGH I'M QUITE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT LINE, I'M AFRAID THE DETAILS CAN BECOME A BIT COMPLICATED
I'LL EXPLAIN THAT TO YOU LATER
LINE?!

JUST YOU AND ME.
...BUT I WOULD MUCH RATHER HAVE A QUAINT LITTLE CHAT OVER DINNER.
OF COURSE, I COULD INTERROGATE YOU ON THESE MATTERS
!!
OF COURSE, I HEAR TALES OF 50%, TOO.
THAT GOES FOR INFORMATION AND CORPSES ALIKE.
I AM THE JUDGE OF THE IGURA. AND THUS, EVERYTHING ABOUT IT EVENTUALLY COMES TO ME.
NOTHING MUCH, REALLY. I JUST WANT TO TEST YOUR BLOOD.
WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?
YOUR... ALLY?!
YOU MUST BE CURIOUS YOURSELF. IF YOU BECOME MY ALLY I CAN SHARE THAT INFORMATION WITH YOU.

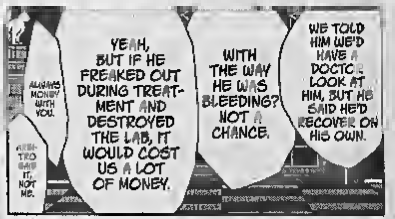

DOG
N
FOOD

AND IT WASN'T ME WHO BROKE THAT VASE, OKAY? CLEAN IT UP NICE AND GOOD
FEED THE LITTLE CHICKIE A WHOLE COW AND DON'T FORGET TO TAKE HIM SOME TOMATO JUICE, TOO
I'M ASKING YOU WHAT A LIVING GHOST IS.
THERE'S NO WAY A DEAD MAN COULD WALK THE STREETS.

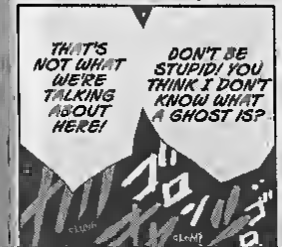
WHERE'D THE LITTLE CHICKIE GO?
IT TOOK FIVE OF US TO DRAG HIM TO THE KING'S ROOM
"KING'S ROOM"?

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE.

YOU MEAN...
...LIKE THE SPIRIT OF A DEAD PERSON?
WHACK


ALWAYS MONEY WITH YOU.
IT, NOT ME.
YEAH, BUT IF HE FREAKED OUT DURING TREATMENT AND DESTROYED THE LAB, IT WOULD COST US A LOT OF MONEY.
WITH THE WAY HE WAS BLEEDING? NOT A CHANCE.
WE TOLD HIM WE'D HAVE A DOCTOR LOOK AT HIM, BUT HE SAID HE'D RECOVER ON HIS OWN.

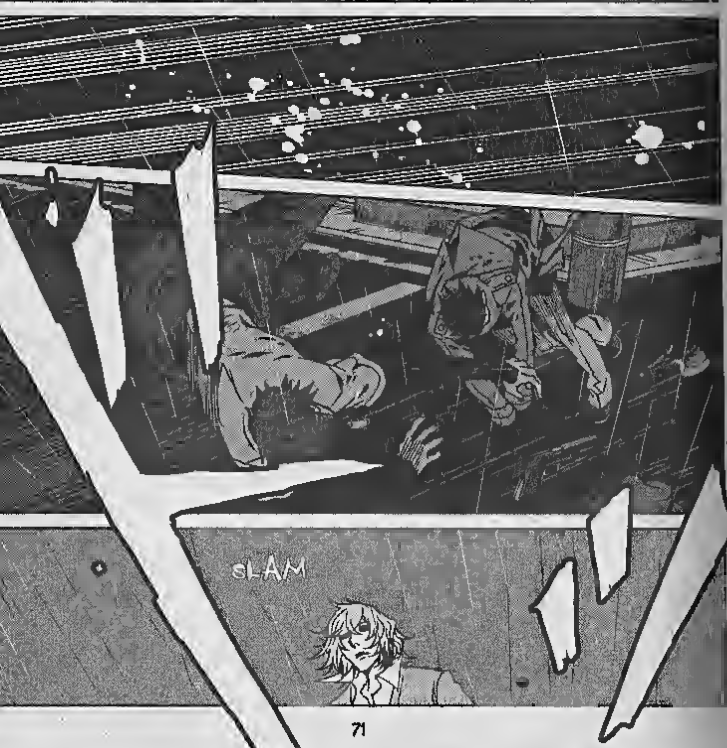
YEAH, GHOST. G-H-O-S-T.
G-GHOST!
NOTHING. HEY, WHAT DID HE MEAN BY "GHOST"?
WHAT?
HE'D BREAK IT, ANYWAY.


THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE!
DON'T BE STUPID! YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT A GHOST IS?

YOU MAY HAVE A VERY UNIQUE ABILITY!
THAT BEING SAID, YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY DIFFERENT THAN ANY OTHER SUBJECT I'VE SEEN IT'S AS IF YOU HAVE NO LIMITS!
WE AL-READY KNOW THE EFFECTS OF 30% LINE. BUT AS THE CONCENTRA-TION INCREASES, SO DOES ITS NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE BODY.
NO../ I JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU A QUESTION!
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
SORRY, I'M NOT INTERESTED.. BUT IF YOU WANT ME TO KILL YOU, I'LL BE HAPPY TO OBLIGE.
TWITCH
IT'S RARE TO FIND A SUB-JECT THAT'S COMPATIBLE WITH 50% IF YOU ARE ONE, YOU WOULD BE VERY VALUABLE TO US.

I'M JUST LOOKING FOR THE SOURCE OF THE 50%... THAT'S ALL.
WAIT.
AHH...
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT LINE
50%?

BLAM
M.A.O.S
DOG FOOD

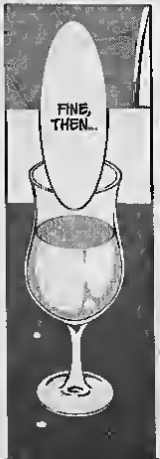

SLAM

YOU HAVE AMAZING POTENTIAL... A GIFT THAT NO ONE ELSE POSSESSES.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF WHAT I'M SAYING.
HMPH.
YOU WANT ME? IS THAT IT?
SO WHAT?
HEH.
HEH HEH HEH...

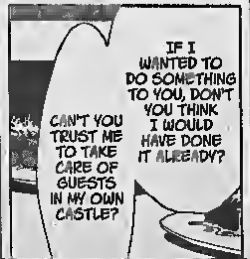
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY SO HARD ANYMORE.
ONCE YOU'RE HERE...
WHY DON'T YOU TRY USING LINE YOURSELF?
I DON'T KNOW WHOSE ORDERS YOU'RE FOLLOWING... BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHIT HERE.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO EAT?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

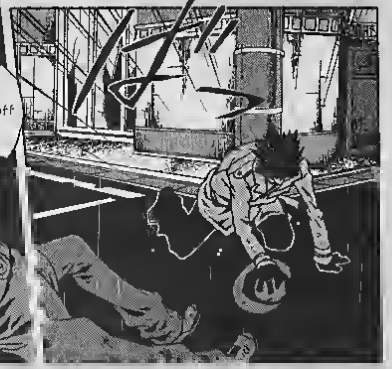
YOU DON'T SEE A FEAST LIKE THIS EVERY DAY.
YOU'RE HUNGRY, AREN'T YOU?
PLEASE, HELP YOURSELF.

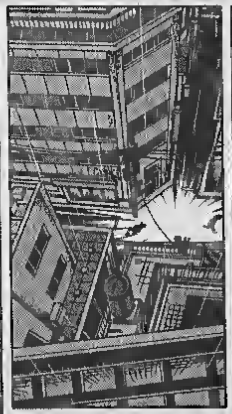

FINE, THEN...

OH, COME NOW!


IF I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TO YOU, DON'T YOU THINK I WOULD HAVE DONE IT ALREADY?
CAN'T YOU TRUST ME TO TAKE CARE OF GUESTS IN MY OWN CASTLE?

huff
huff
huff
huff





IT'S NO SURPRISE. MOST OF THE CHILDREN THERE WERE PROCESSED THAT WAY.
YOU DON'T REMEMBER YOUR TIME THERE, DO YOU?
IS THAT WHAT MOTOMI WAS LOOKING INTO...?
STILL, I DIDN'T THINK THAT THE CHILDREN WITH LOST MEMORIES WOULD START SHOWING ADAPTABILITY SO SOON
WHAT DOES KEISUKE WANT...?
YES. MEMORIES OF TOSHIMA BUNNY NURSERY.
MEMO-RIES?
THE OLD MAN WAS..
THAT IS TO SAY, THEY RECEIVED MEMORY TREATMENT SO THAT THEY WOULD FORGET THE EXPERIMENTS CARRIED OUT ON THEM.
BAKUM
BAKUM BAKUM
BAKUM
BAKUM
EXPERI-MENTS...?

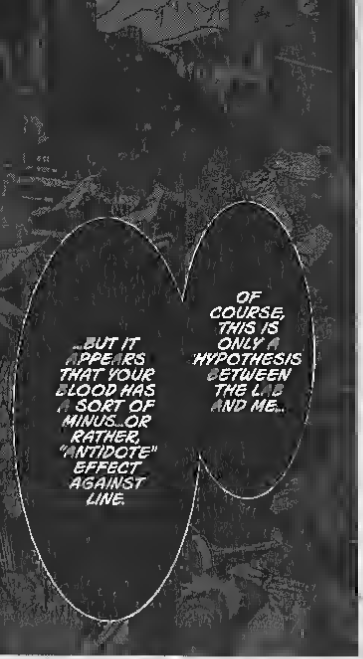
THAT'S RIGHT. AS A TOKEN OF TRUST.
A QUES-TION...?
ASK ME ANYTHING YOU LIKE
PERHAPS YOU WILL BE A BIT LESS STUBBORN IF I ANSWER A QUESTION FOR YOU, FIRST.
IS THERE A WAY TO BE... CURED?
WHAT?
WITH LINE IS THERE A WAY TO...UH...
IF IT'S "STRENGTH" HE DESIRES, THEN LINE WILL SAVE HIM. ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT HE WANTS TO BECOME WEAK AGAIN?
ARE YOU SAYING YOUR FRIEND WANTS TO ABANDON THE POWER HE HAS GAINED?
NO.
...THE MORE POWERFUL THE NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS. IN SOME CASES, THE LIST OF AFTEREFFECTS CAN BE QUITE LONG, INDEED.
IT VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON, BUT IN GENERAL THE MORE POWERFUL THE RES-PONSE...
IF YOU QUIT LINE SUDDENLY YOU'LL TRIG-GER AN INCOM-PATIBILITY RESPONSE. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN YOUR STRENGTH IT IS NECESSARY TO INTAKE LINE ON A REGULAR BASIS.

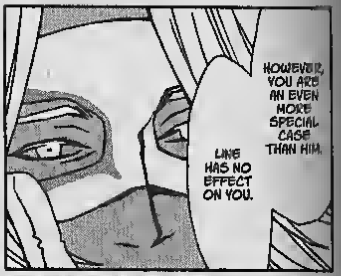
ALL OF YOU ARE NICOLE TEST SUBJECTS.

SPLATTT

THEY WERE WORKING ON A DRUG NAMED "NICOLE."
THEY OPERATED FROM A MILITARY RESEARCH LAB HERE IN TOSHIMA FOR SEVERAL YEARS.
A PORTION OF THEM WERE PASSED ON TO RESEARCH FACILITIES BELONGING TO VARIOUS PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES. ONE SUCH FACILITY WAS RUN BY A GROUP CALLED THE "ENED"
BEFORE THE WAR, THE GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLED ALL OF OUR NATION'S CHILDREN
TOSHIMA RUNWAY

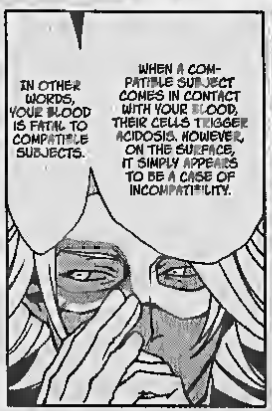
AT ANY RATE, AN ORPHANAGE WAS BUILT WITHIN THE ENED LAB AND CHILDREN WERE SELECTED FROM THERE TO BE TEST SUBJECTS.
AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THIS WAS THE ORIGINAL BASIS FOR LINE.
WHEN TAKEN, THIS DRUG WOULD CAUSE POWERFUL PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS. IDEALLY, IT WOULD CREATE A SOLDIER WITHOUT LIMITS. SOUND FAMILIAR?


...BUT IT APPEARS THAT YOUR BLOOD HAS A SORT OF MINUS...OR RATHER, "ANTIDOTE" EFFECT AGAINST LINE.
OF COURSE, THIS IS ONLY A HYPOTHESIS BETWEEN THE LINE AND ME...


HOWEVER, YOU ARE AN EVEN MORE SPECIAL CASE THAN HIM.
LINE HAS NO EFFECT ON YOU.

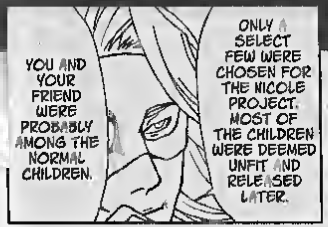
WHAT?

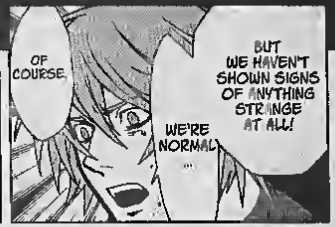
FATAL?! I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WAS AN "ANTIDOTE"?!
THAT'S RIGHT.

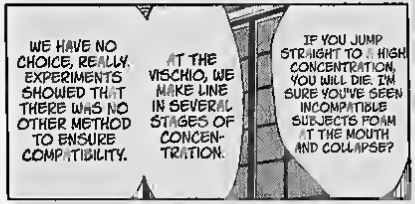

IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR BLOOD IS FATAL TO COMPATIBLE SUBJECTS.
WHEN A COMPATIBLE SUBJECT COMES IN CONTACT WITH YOUR BLOOD, THEIR CELLS TRIGGER ACIDOSIS. HOWEVER, ON THE SURFACE, IT SIMPLY APPEARS TO BE A CASE OF INCOMPATIBILITY.

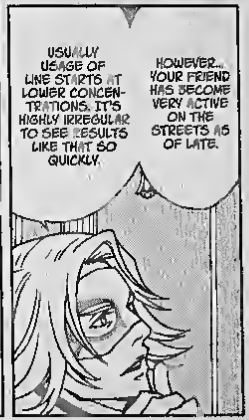
AN ANTI-DOTE...?!

NICOLE...?

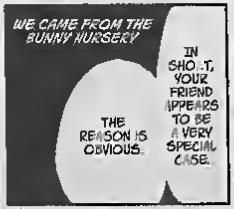

YOU AND YOUR FRIEND WERE PROBABLY AMONG THE NORMAL CHILDREN.
ONLY A SELECT FEW WERE CHOSEN FOR THE NICOLE PROJECT. MOST OF THE CHILDREN WERE DEEMED UNFIT AND RELEASED LATER.


OF COURSE.
WE'RE NORMAL...
BUT WE HAVEN'T SHOWN SIGNS OF ANYTHING STRANGE AT ALL!


WE HAVE NO CHOICE, REALLY. EXPERIMENTS SHOWED THAT THERE WAS NO OTHER METHOD TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY.
AT THE VISCHIO, WE MAKE LINE IN SEVERAL STAGES OF CONCENTRATION.
IF YOU JUMP STRAIGHT TO A HIGH CONCENTRATION, YOU WILL DIE. I'M SURE YOU'VE SEEN INCOMPATIBLE SUBJECTS FOAM AT THE MOUTH AND COLLAPSE?


USUALLY USAGE OF LINE STARTS AT LOWER CONCENTRATIONS. IT'S HIGHLY IRREGULAR TO SEE RESULTS LIKE THAT SO QUICKLY.
HOWEVER... YOUR FRIEND HAS BECOME VERY ACTIVE ON THE STREETS AS OF LATE.

KEISUKE AND I WERE TEST SUBJECTS...?!


WE CAME FROM THE BUNNY NURSERY
IN SHORT, YOUR FRIEND APPEARS TO BE A VERY SPECIAL CASE.
THE REASON IS OBVIOUS.

AFTER THE WAR HAD ENDED...
I CAME UPON A SERIES OF LOST RESEARCH DOCUMENTS.
IT WAS THEN THAT I LEARNED OF THE EXISTENCE OF NICOLE.
...PAINTED WITH BLOOD.
CORRUPTED MEMORIES...

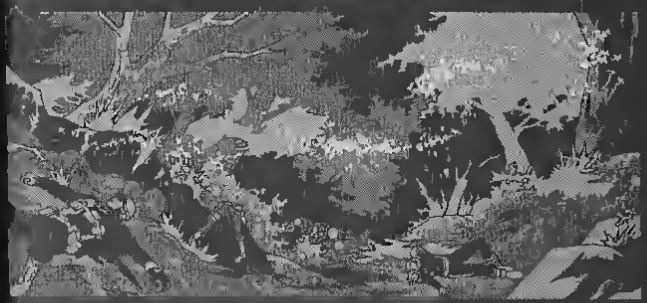
...RESEARCH FACILITY...
AND THAT MEANS--
THAT'S WHY I KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT LINE
I WAS ONCE A LAB RESEARCHER I WORKED ON THE NICOLE PROJECT PERSONALLY.
LINE MAY GIVE A PERSON STRENGTH, BUT IT DESTROYS THEIR BODY AS WELL.
A DRUG THAT POWERFUL IS NO DIFFERENT FROM POISON.

THE TRUE FACE OF THE BUNNY NURSERY.

AAAA
UGHHH

MY BODY FROZEN IN PLACE...
THE OVERWHELMING POWER...

UGHH
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

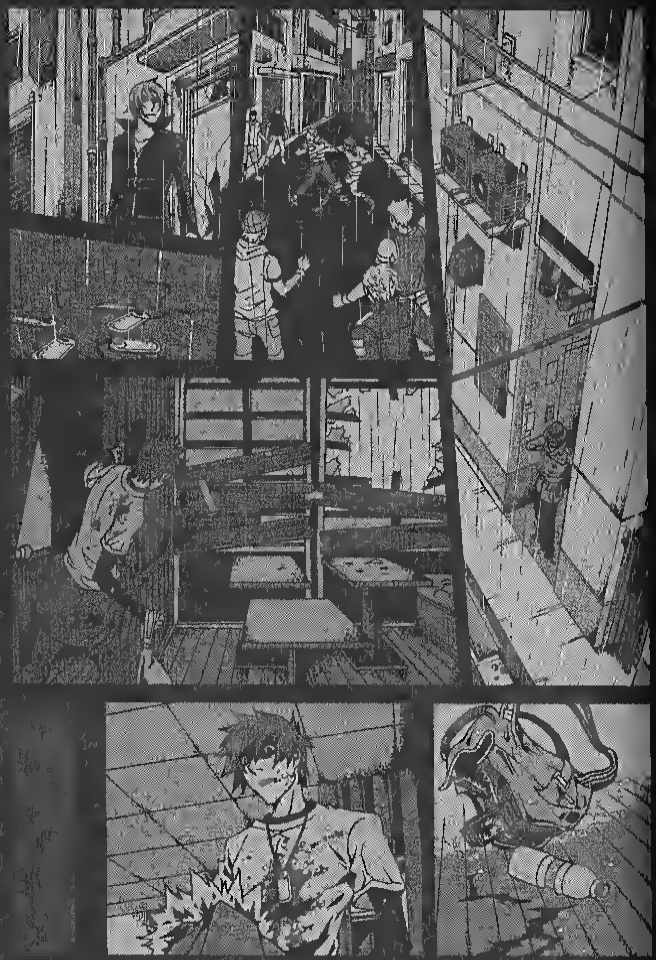


...THE MEANING OF "FEAR."

"KILL... ME..."

HE TAUGHT ME...

"KILL ME!"



I'LL NEVER FORGET..

I WILL LET HIM T..STE THE..S ME FEAR THAT I FEL..

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM.

A HUMILIATION WORSE THAN DEATH.

I WILL CUT DOWN EVERYTHING CONNECTED TO HIM.

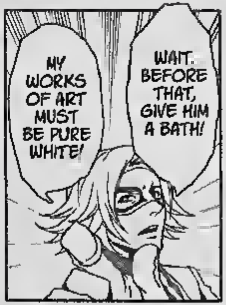
LOOKING DOWN ON THE PEOPLE OF THIS FILTHY CITY.

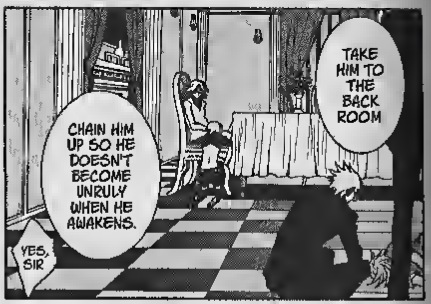
HE BIDES HIS TIME, SITTING ON HIS PERCH..

GAZE UPON THIS BEAUTY.
HE IS MY TREA-SURE.
HE'S SICK...!
FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING SO, BUT YOU'RE DENSE
EVEN IF I AGR-EED TO-
YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THE MILITARY SENT?
NO VALUE IS BORN FROM DOING AS YOU PLE..SE... FROM SIMPLY BEING ALIVE.
IRONIC-ALLY, SO FEW OF THEM ARE WORTH ANYTHING TO BEGIN WITH. YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A COMMON STREET THUG.
TRUE VALUE IS BORN ONLY WHEN SOMEONE SUCH AS I DEEMS IT SO.
RE-MEMBER THIS.
"GOOD" PEOPLE ARE SO CONVINCED THEY H..VE VALUE TH..T THEY ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BECOME THICK-HEADED
I SHOULD EXPECT AS MUCH FROM A "GOOD GUY" LIKE YOU.
HEH HEH HEH...
WAS IT A MISTAKE TO LET YOU ENTER THE IGURA?
SO YOU'VE COME HERE WITH-OUT EVEN KNOWING WHAT YOU ARE.
WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?
I THINK IT'S CUTE WHEN A CAT SLEEPS ON YOUR LAP
AH, BUT DON'T TAKE THAT AS AN INSULT.
LOOK AT YOU...LIKE A TOMCAT WITH ITS TAIL IN THE AIR
SHUDDER
YOUR QUALITIES DO NOT GO UNNOTICED, HOWEVER WITH TIME, I BELIEVE I CAN TAP INTO YOUR "TRUE ESSENCE"... HEH HEH
THIS EPHEMERAL BEAUTY THAT DEPARTS US ALL...MANY MOURN ITS PASSING, BUT FEW UNDER-STAND ITS MEANING

W-WILL IT HELP...KEISUKE...?
PERHAPS.
ALTHOUGH I MAKE NO GUARANTEES, WE MAY BE ABLE TO FIND A CURE.
WE'LL CERTAINLY GIVE IT OUR BEST.
THEN, KEISUKE WILL...
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CONTRIBUTE A BIT OF BLOOD.
I HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY ORDERS. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I STILL HAVEN'T RECEIVED COMMUNICATION.
Gasp
SOMETHING WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. WHAT WAS IT? I NEED TO FIND KEISUKE AND RIN. THAT'S RIGHT--RIN! AND WHAT ABOUT THE OLD MAN?
I'LL KEEP FIGHTING
IF I WIN THE IGURA, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
IF I DEFEAT IL RE.
...I'LL BE FREE.
BUT THEN...
WHAT ABOUT
KEISUKE?

I'VE SEEN THE CORPSES OF PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU CHILDREN WHO WERE USED AND DISCARDED ACCORDING TO THE WHIMS OF THE NATION
IT'S A MISERABLE LIFE... BUT WHAT CHOICE DID THEY HAVE?
AND YET, I DON'T PITY THEM. IF YOU LIVE TO FOLLOW ORDERS, THEN YOU WILL BE EXECUTED HERE. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY
I HAD AN INKLING THAT YOU WERE HERE ON ORDERS THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU.
YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE TO ENJOY KILLING.
THAT BEING SAID...WHY DON'T YOU QUIT THE IGURA AND HELP MY LITTLE PROJECT?
OF COURSE, IT'S STILL YOUR CHOICE. I WON'T HOLD YOU DOWN AND TAKE YOUR BLOOD BY FORCE
...YOU MAY EVEN BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR FRIEND.
DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES
STILL, WITH THE LACK OF PROPER TEST SUBJECTS, LINE RESEARCH CAN PROVE QUITE FRUSTRATING.
WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION, WE MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE GREAT ADVANCEMENTS IN SOLVING ITS MYSTERIES.


MY WORKS OF ART MUST BE PURE WHITE!
WAIT. BEFORE THAT, GIVE HIM A BATH!

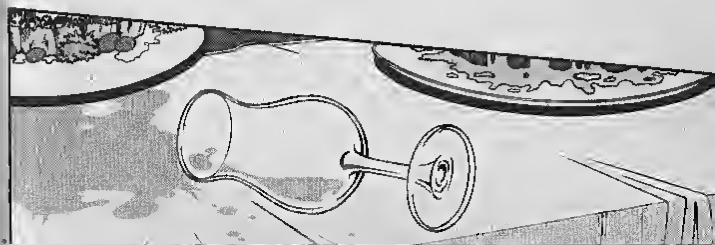

TAKE HIM TO THE BACK ROOM
CHAIN HIM UP SO HE DOESN'T BECOME UNRULY WHEN HE AWAKENS.
YES, SIR

SHALL WE DRUG HIM?
OF COURSE.
HE DOESN'T NEED "FREE WILL" HERE.
BE SURE TO KEEP HIM CONSTRAINED, ALL RIGHT?

PARTAKE OF IT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE.
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF. IT'S ONLY WATER.

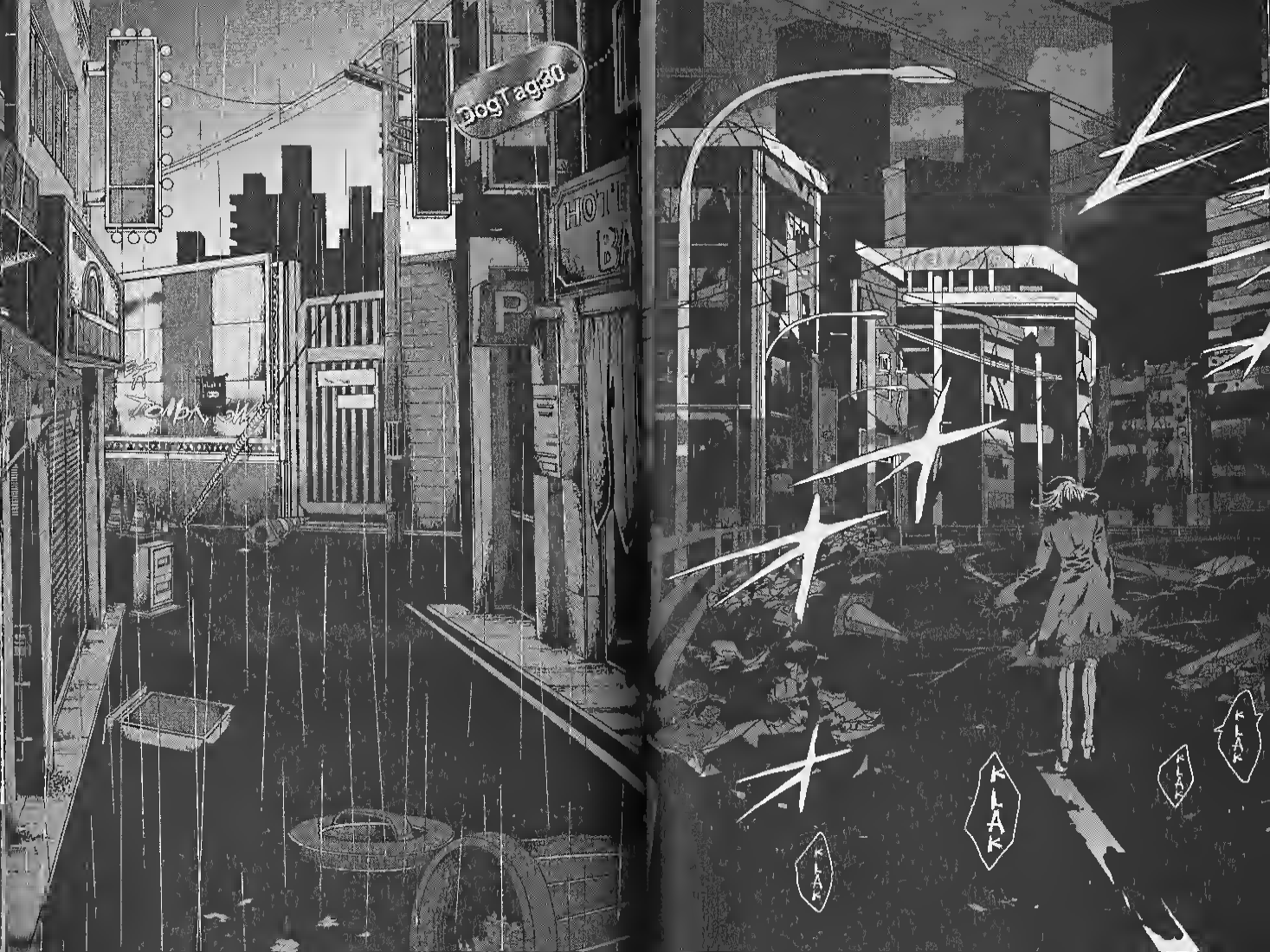
OH NO...

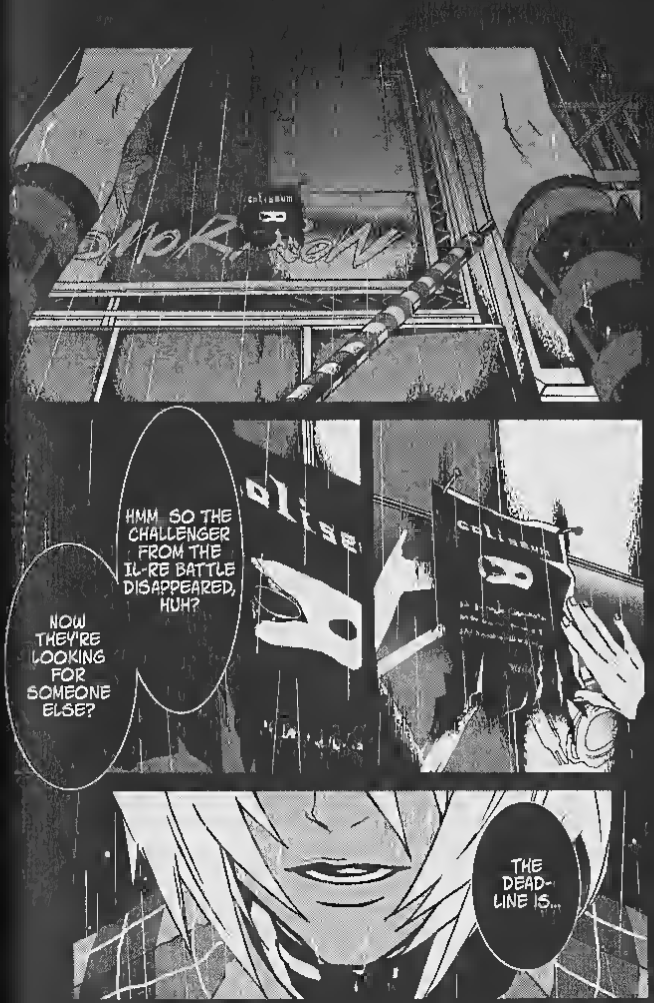
NOW THEN...

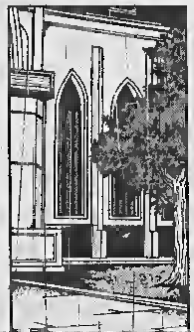


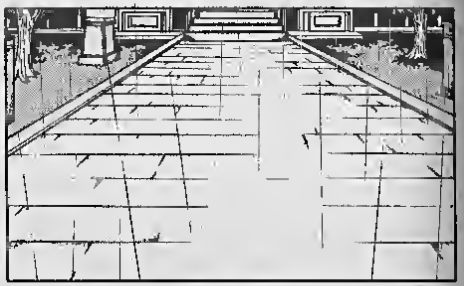
EMMA!
IT'S DANGEROUS.
BLEP

I DON'T KNOW.
YOU SOUND STRANGE. IS SOMETHING GOING ON?
CALM DOWN.
THE MILITARY'S PULLED OUT. IT'LL PROBABLY TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE THEY START THEIR NEXT OPERATION. I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY.
WHAT HAPPENED, GWEN?
EMMA, I WANT YOU TO TURN AROUND AND GO BACK.
I'VE SEEN NICOLE'S RECORDS. I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE.
BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG.
I CAN'T QUITE EXPLAIN IT...
I'VE SEEN LINE ADDICTS IN MY TIME.
I CAN'T QUITE SHAKE IT.
THEY SENT A SHIVER DOWN MY SPINE.
BUT THAT ADDICT'S EYES...
THIS TERRIBLE FEELING
EMMA
NO, I'LL BE FINE.
I'LL SEND BACKUP. JUST STAY BACK AND WATCH FOR NOW.
EMMA
I'LL CONTACT YOU SOON.
IS THIS FEAR?
I UNDERSTAND.


DogTag30
HOT
P
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK


HMM. SO THE CHALLENGER FROM THE IL-RE BATTLE DISAPPEARED, HUH?
NOW THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE ELSE?
THE DEAD-LINE IS...



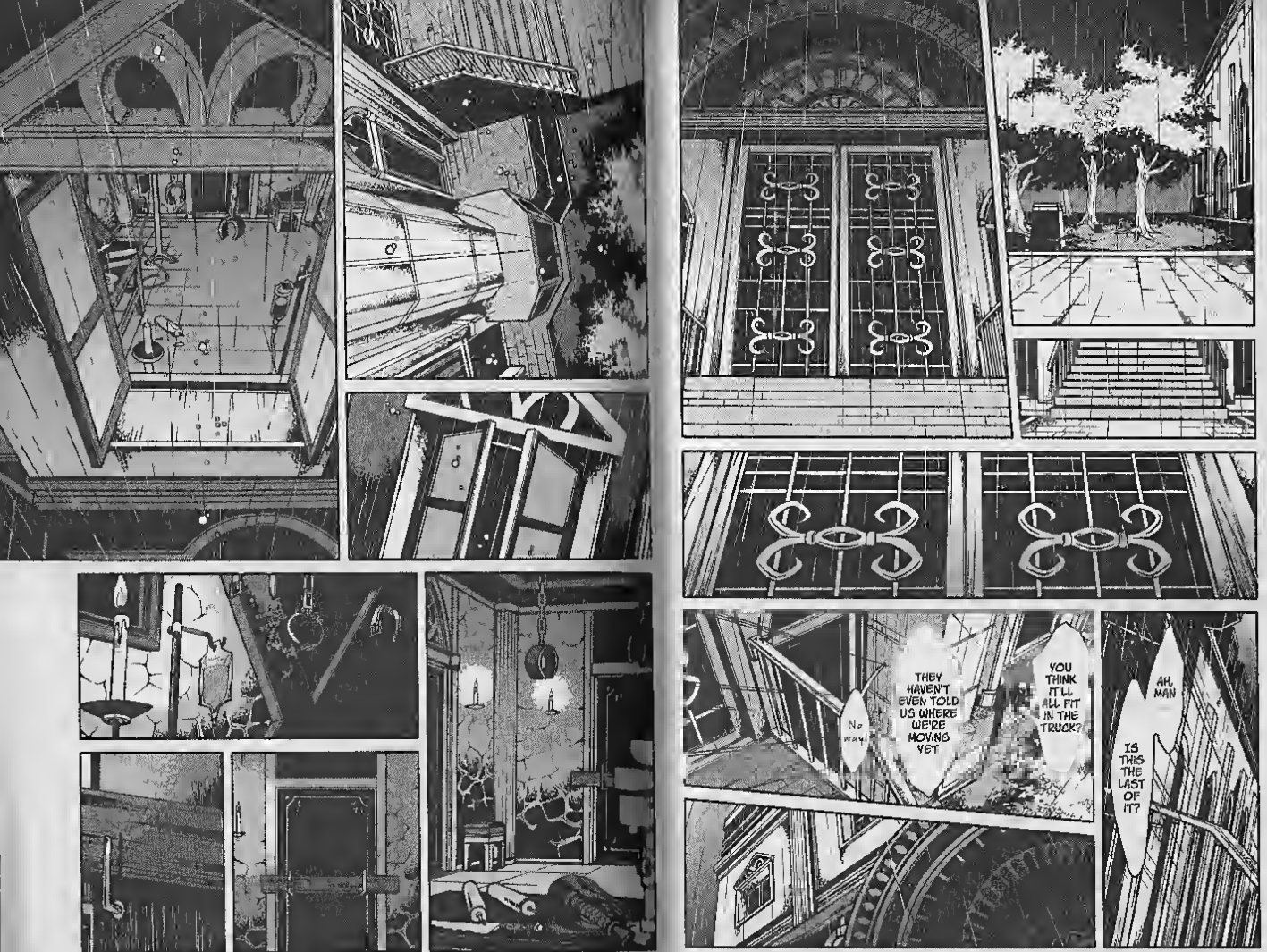


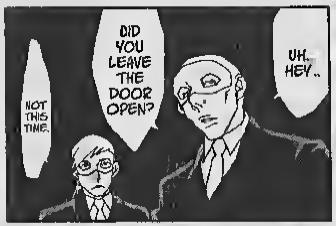
I AIN'T FALLING FOR THAT THE COLI-SEUM?
Shut up
YOU COULD TAKE DOWN IL-RE FOR THAT KIND A MONEY? COME ON!

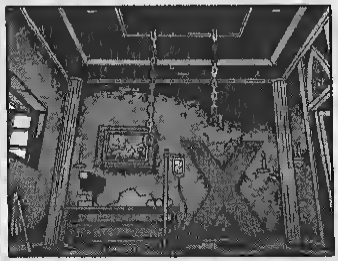
Not again!

WHEN IS IT?

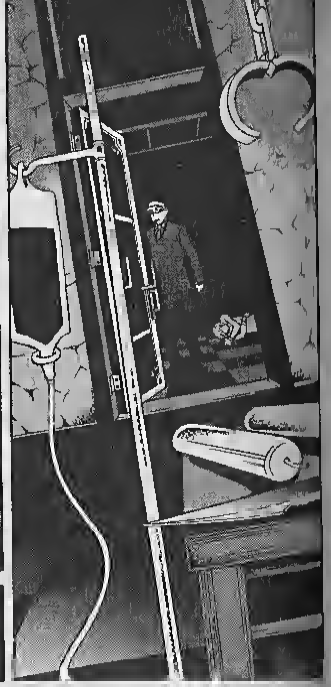
IN TWO DAYS.
Coliseum

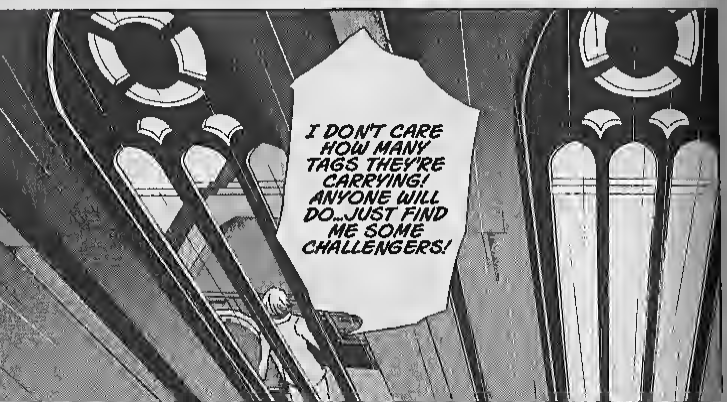

AH, MAN
IS THIS THE LAST OF IT?
YOU THINK IT'LL ALL FIT IN THE TRUCK?
THEY HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD US WHERE WE'RE MOVING YET
No way!


NOT THIS TIME.
DID YOU LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN?
UH... HEY..

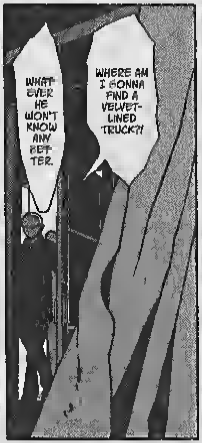


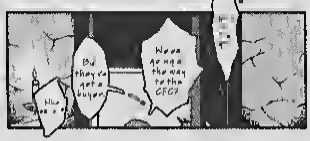
Gya

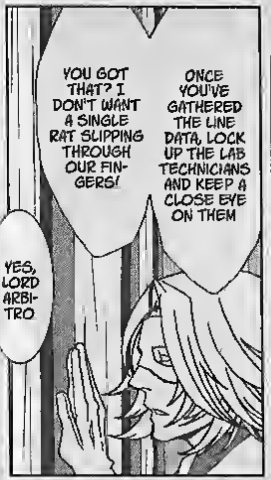



I DON'T CARE HOW MANY TAGS THEY'RE CARRYING! ANYONE WILL DO...JUST FIND ME SOME CHALLENGERS!

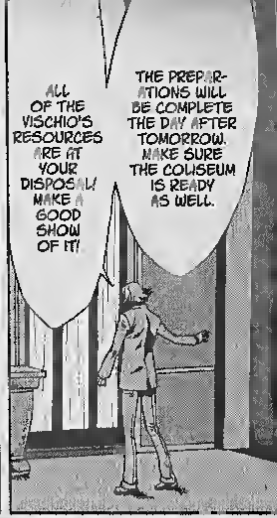
JUST GET THEM OUT OF HERE QUICK.


WHAT EVER HE WON'T KNOW ANY BETTER.
WHERE AM I GONNA FIND A VELVET-LINED TRUCK?!

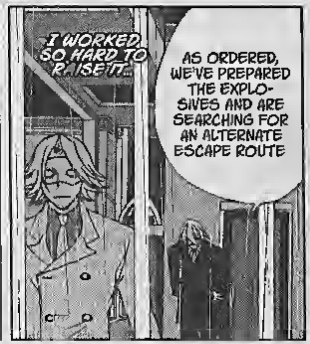

Wooo ar nga the way to the GYM!
But they've got a buyer.

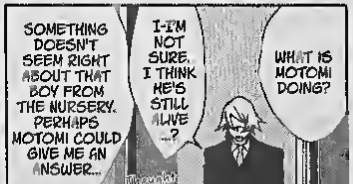

YOU GOT THAT? I DON'T WANT A SINGLE RAT SLIPPING THROUGH OUR FINGERS!
ONCE YOU'VE GATHERED THE LINE DATA, LOCK UP THE LAB TECHNICIANS AND KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THEM
YES, LORD ARBITRO

I DON'T HAVE TO RELY ON SHIKI. IN THE WORST CASE SCENARIO I CAN STILL SELL THE DATA TO THE MILITARY

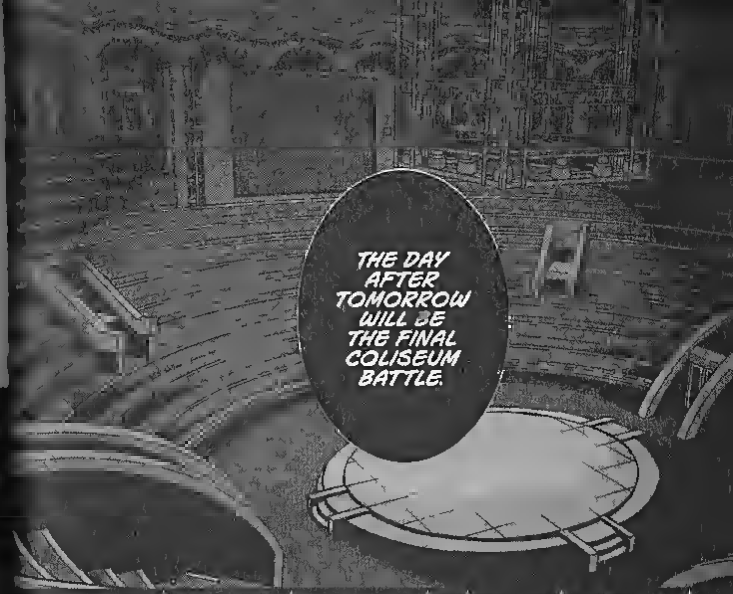

ALL OF THE VISCHIO'S RESOURCES ARE AT YOUR DISPOSAL! MAKE A GOOD SHOW OF IT!
THE PREPARATIONS WILL BE COMPLETE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW. MAKE SURE THE COLISEUM IS READY AS WELL.

THIS IS MY VISCHIO.




SOMETHING DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT ABOUT THAT BOY FROM THE NURSERY. PERHAPS MOTOMI COULD GIVE ME AN ANSWER...
I-I'M NOT SURE. I THINK HE'S STILL ALIVE ...?
WHAT IS MOTOMI DOING?

WHAT THE HELL MAN?


THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW WILL BE THE FINAL COLISEUM BATTLE.

THE FINAL.

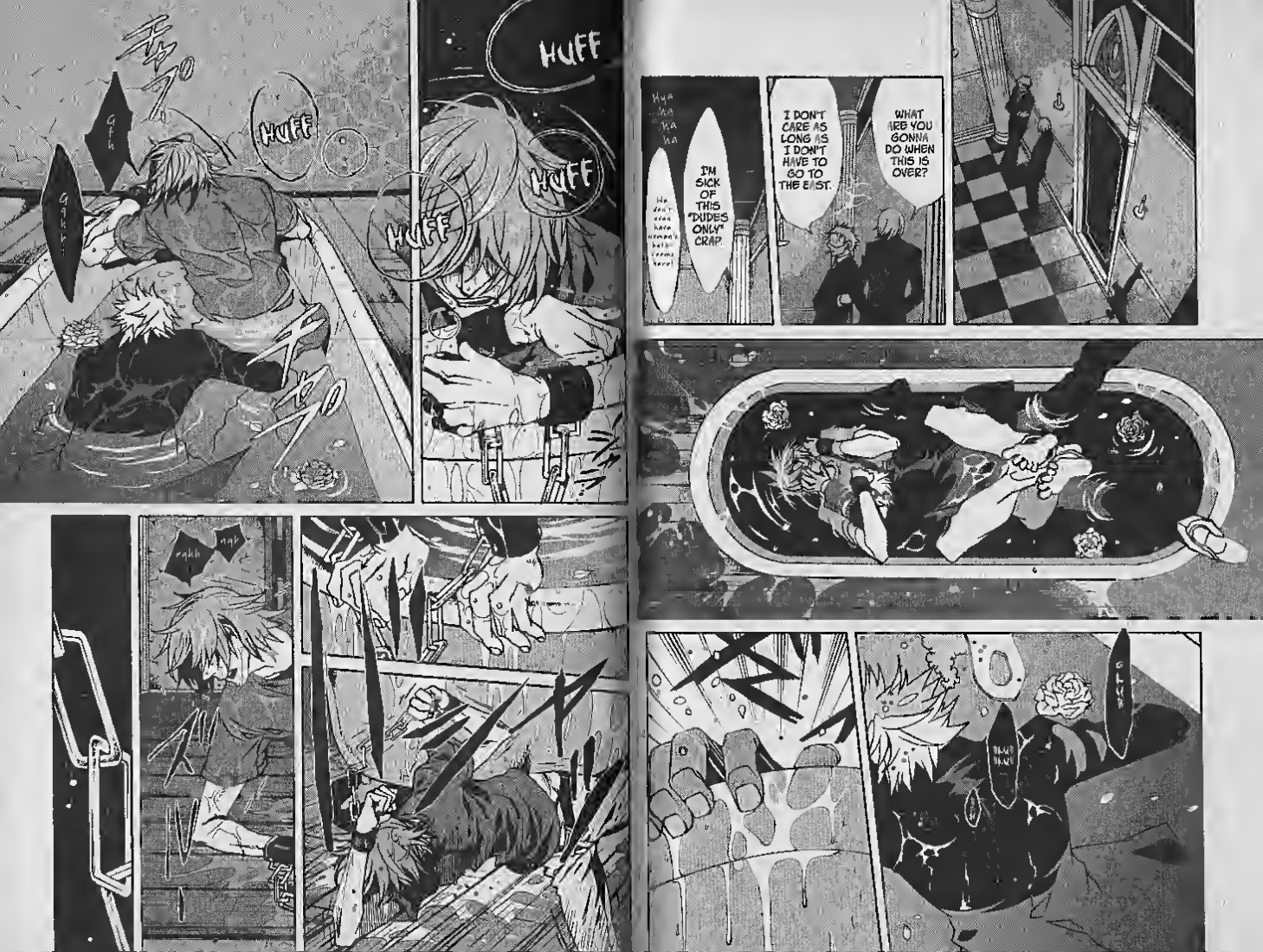
HATE YOUR WEAK-NESS.
HATE YOURSELF.
NEVER AGAIN.

WHAT ARE YOU ON?!
YOU'RE TOO GODDAMN STRONG!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT FROM ME, HUH?!
WHAT AM I SUP-POSED TO DO?!
IT AIN'T FAIR!
I CAN'T WIN THIS, MAN!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
SHIT, M..N... WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I USED IT ALL... I...
IS IT 'C' USE I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH LINE?

WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, HUH?
YOU JUST SIT THERE IN A DAZE WHILE I WORK MY ASS OFF.
YOU KNOW, I ALMOST ENVY YOU.
C'MON, ON YOUR FEET! WAKE UP!
CAN'T YOU EVEN WALK STRAIGHT?!
HURRY UP!

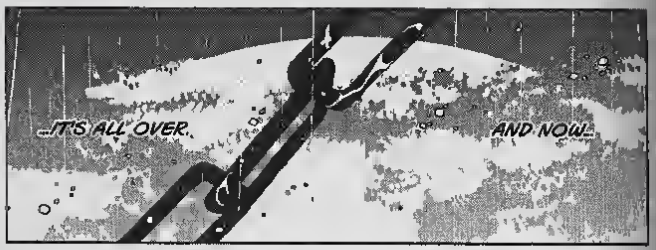
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
YOU ALONE, I WILL LOATHE FOR ETERNITY.
HUFF...
HUFF...
YOU BETTER NOT SLACK OFF, EITHER! I WANT EVERY INCH OF HIM SQUEAKY CLEAN!
Shut up!
Have fun! ♪
WHAT?!
WHY ME?!
CALL ME TO SWITCH WHEN YOU FINISH CLEANING UP.
Heh heh.
Enjoy your man-bath!
'CAUSE I CAN DO THAT, TOO.
YOU SHOULDA THOUGHT ABOUT THAT BEFORE YOU JACKED THOSE CIGARETTE BUTTS. OR WOULD YOU RATHER I CALL THE EXECUTIONERS?
8

Oh damn it!
You're bleeding the place!
Whoa!
COUGH COUGH
COUGH ... COUGH
WHAT, ARE YOU FALLING ASLEEP?!
GUH!
MMH!
GHHGH
NGH


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Gah
Gah
Hya ha ha ha
We don't even have women's bathrooms here!
I'M SICK OF THIS "DUDES ONLY" CRAP.
I DON'T CARE AS LONG AS I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THE EAST.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WHEN THIS IS OVER?
nghh
ngh
Gah
BLUD BLUD

HOW'S IT GOING IN THERE? YOU GOTTEN TO THE GOOD STUFF YET?
DON'T SLACK OFF!
huff
huff
huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Uuh...
Ahh!
Ahh!
Ahh!
Ahh!
CLICK
huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff

EVEN IN THIS UGLY CITY...
...THERE ARE AT LEAST...
...A FEW...
...BEAUTIFUL THINGS.
TOO HIGH UP...
BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE DOOR...
ONLY ONE WINDOW...


...IT'S ALL OVER.
AND NOW...

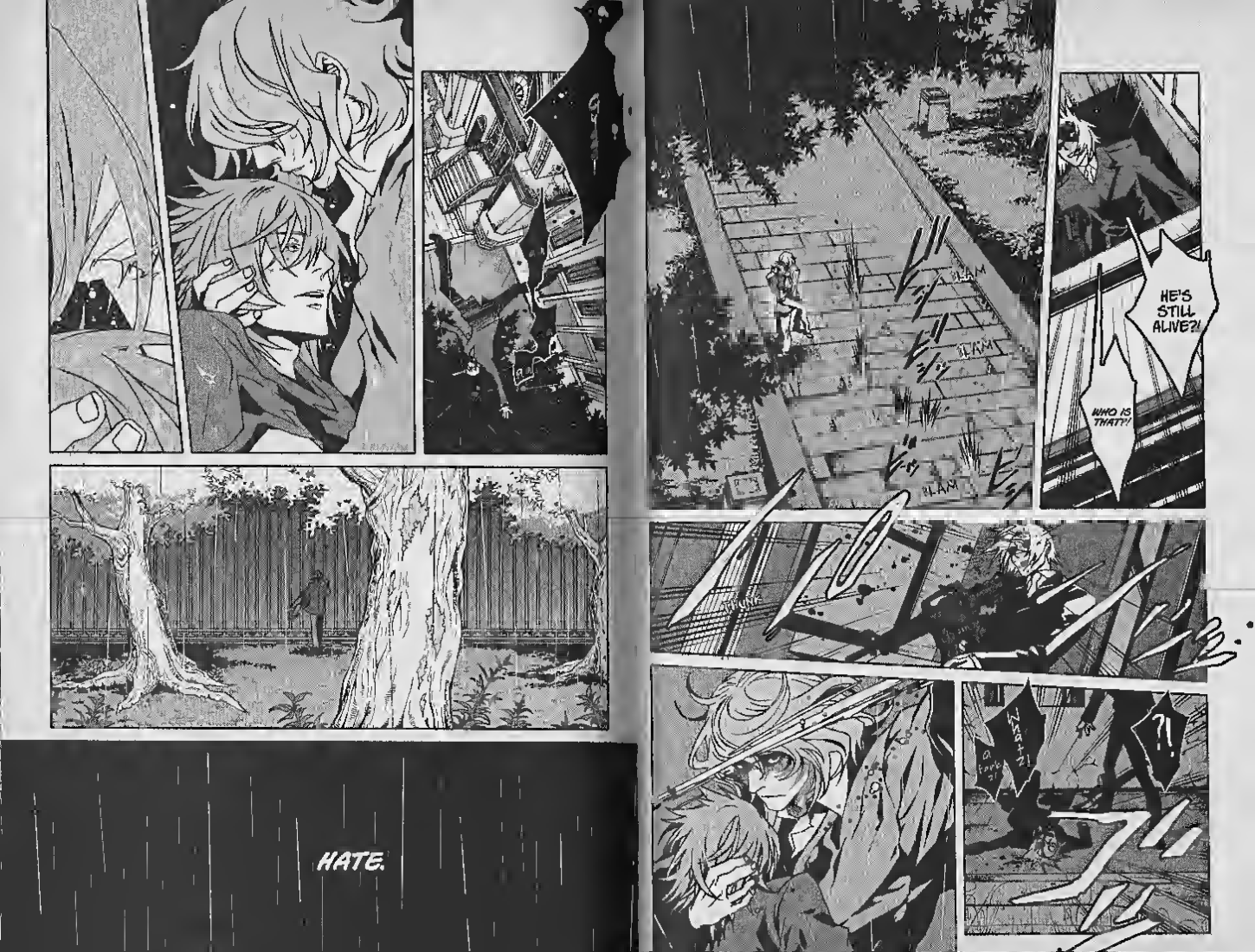
EVER SINCE I CAME HERE, I'VE BEEN CRAWLING ON THE GROUND.
Look! The window!

FROM THE BEGINNING...

I NEVER SAW A THING.

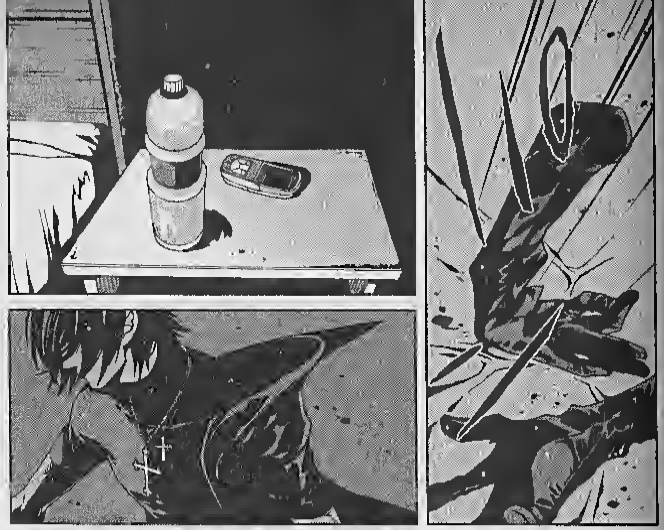
I NEVER KNEW...
...HOW BEAUTIFUL THIS CITY COULD BE

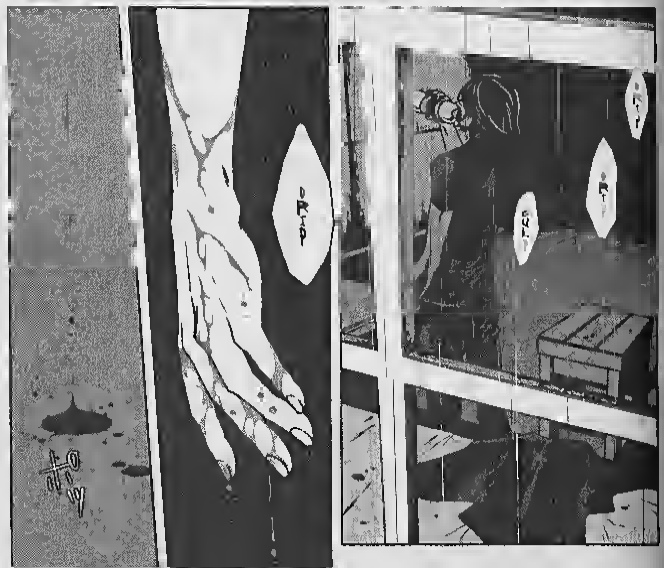
PURPLE...
...EYES...


SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
HE'S STILL ALIVE?!
WHO IS THAT?!
?!
HATE.

THE MORE
...THE MORE IT CONSUMES YOU.
THE MORE YOU FEAR...
THAT'S WHAT IT SEEMS LIKE, AT LEAST.
...THE HARDER IT IS TO TURN AWAY.

"LONG TIME NO SEE."
"DO YOU STILL..."
"...LIKE LOOKING UP AT THE STARRY SKIES?"
DogTags




KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

PERHAPS IT WAS A CHALLENGE?

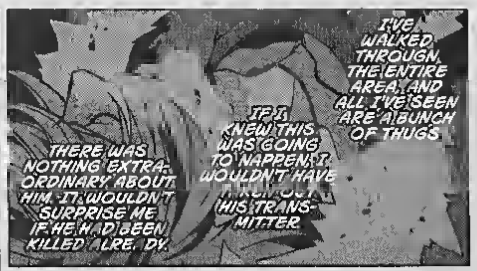
THAT EXPRESSION.. WHAT WAS HE TRYING TO TELL ME?

I CAN FEEL HIS PRESENCE CREEPING THROUGH THE CITY.

NO...

I CAN'T FIND HIM.

PREMIER IS STILL HERE, ISN'T HE?

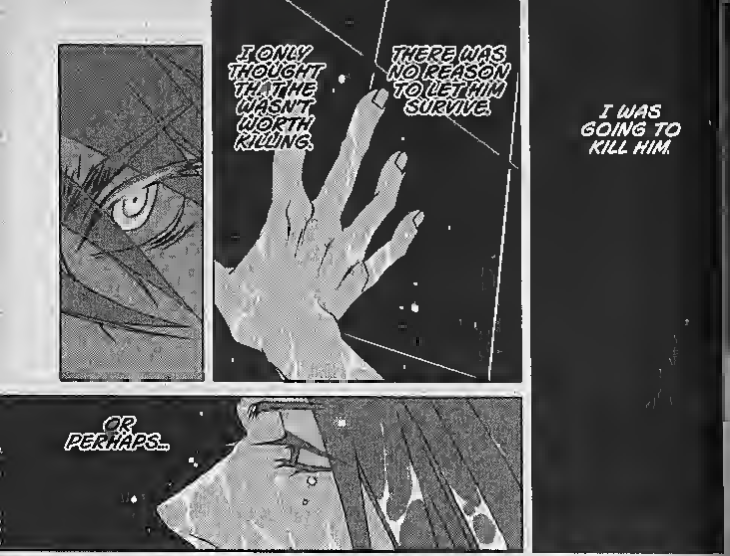


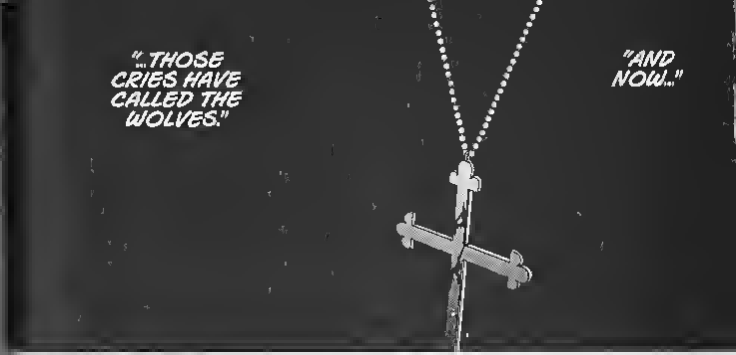
I'VE WALKED THROUGH THE ENTIRE AREA, AND ALL I'VE SEEN ARE A BUNCH OF THUGS.

IF I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, I WOULDN'T HAVE [illegible] HIS TRANSMITTER.

THERE WAS NOTHING EXTRAORDINARY ABOUT HIM. IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF HE'D BEEN KILLED ALREADY.

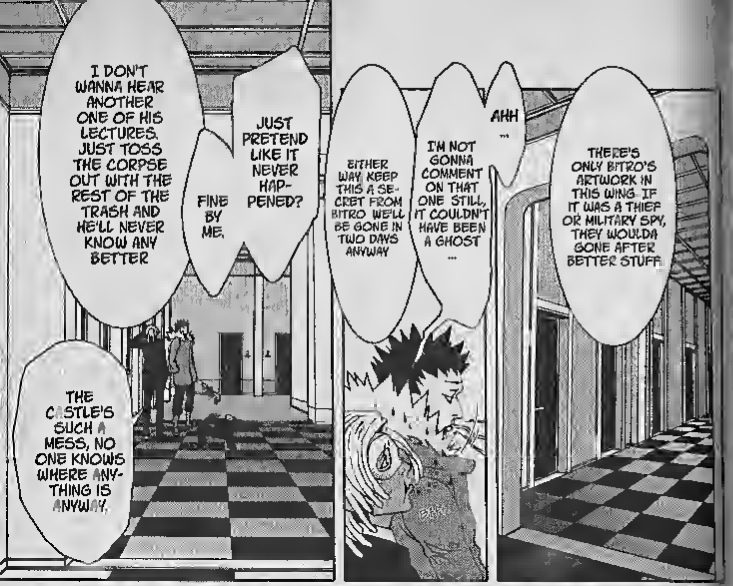
IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE. WHY WOULD HE DO SUCH A THING?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
NO. I REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT.
AND YET, IT'S TOO GREAT A COINCIDENCE TO IGNORE, ESPECIALLY WITH THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF THE 50%.
HE WAS JUST TRYING TO SAVE THAT MAN.
HE KNEW I WAS PURSUING HIM, SO HE DREW MY ATTENTION.
AND DURING THAT MOMENT...
I LET HIM ESCAPE.
"AS THEY SAY, THE WEAKEST DOG OFTEN BARKS THE LOUDEST."
"YOU WERE FOOLISH. YOU BARKED BECAUSE YOU'RE A WEAK DOG."
IT ALL STARTED WHEN THAT MAN ARRIVED.
WHAT IS IT ABOUT HIM?

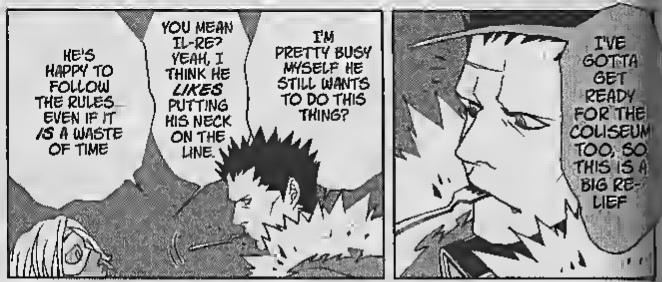

I ONLY THOUGHT TH...THE WASN'T WORTH KILLING.
THERE WAS NO REASON TO LET HIM SURVIVE.
I WAS GOING TO KILL HIM.
OR PERHAPS...


"...THOSE CRIES HAVE CALLED THE WOLVES."
"AND NOW.."

CLINK

...I FELT SOMETHING IN THOSE EYES.
PERHAPS THAT'S WHY I LET HIM LIVE.
I DIDN'T HEAR A SOUND


I DON'T WANNA HEAR ANOTHER ONE OF HIS LECTURES. JUST TOSS THE CORPSE OUT WITH THE REST OF THE TRASH AND HE'LL NEVER KNOW ANY BETTER
FINE BY ME.
JUST PRETEND LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED?
THE CASTLE'S SUCH A MESS, NO ONE KNOWS WHERE ANYTHING IS ANYWAY.
EITHER WAY, KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM BITRO. WE'LL BE GONE IN TWO DAYS ANYWAY
I'M NOT GONNA COMMENT ON THAT ONE STILL, IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A GHOST ...
AHH ...
THERE'S ONLY BITRO'S ARTWORK IN THIS WING. IF IT WAS A THIEF OR MILITARY SPY, THEY WOULDA GONE AFTER BETTER STUFF.

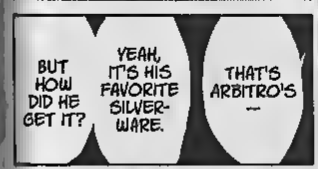

HE'S HAPPY TO FOLLOW THE RULES EVEN IF IT IS A WASTE OF TIME
YOU MEAN IL-RE? YEAH, I THINK HE LIKES PUTTING HIS NECK ON THE LINE.
I'M PRETTY BUSY MYSELF HE STILL WANTS TO DO THIS THING?
I'VE GOTTA GET READY FOR THE COLISEUM TOO, SO THIS IS A BIG RELIEF

IT HAS DREAMS... AND A SENSE OF HUMOR.
IT'S SUCH A GODDAMN BORE. THERE'S NO FUN IN WORKING WITH A STRAIGHT-EDGE STUCK UP LIKE HIM. HE SHOULD LEARN TO BE MORE LIKE THIS FORK.

I WAS DOING MY JOB IN THE NEXT ROOM OVER I'M TELLING YOU, I DIDN'T HEAR A THING!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT!
Or maybe you were rolling the bones?
WERE YOU SLEEPING OR SOMETHING?

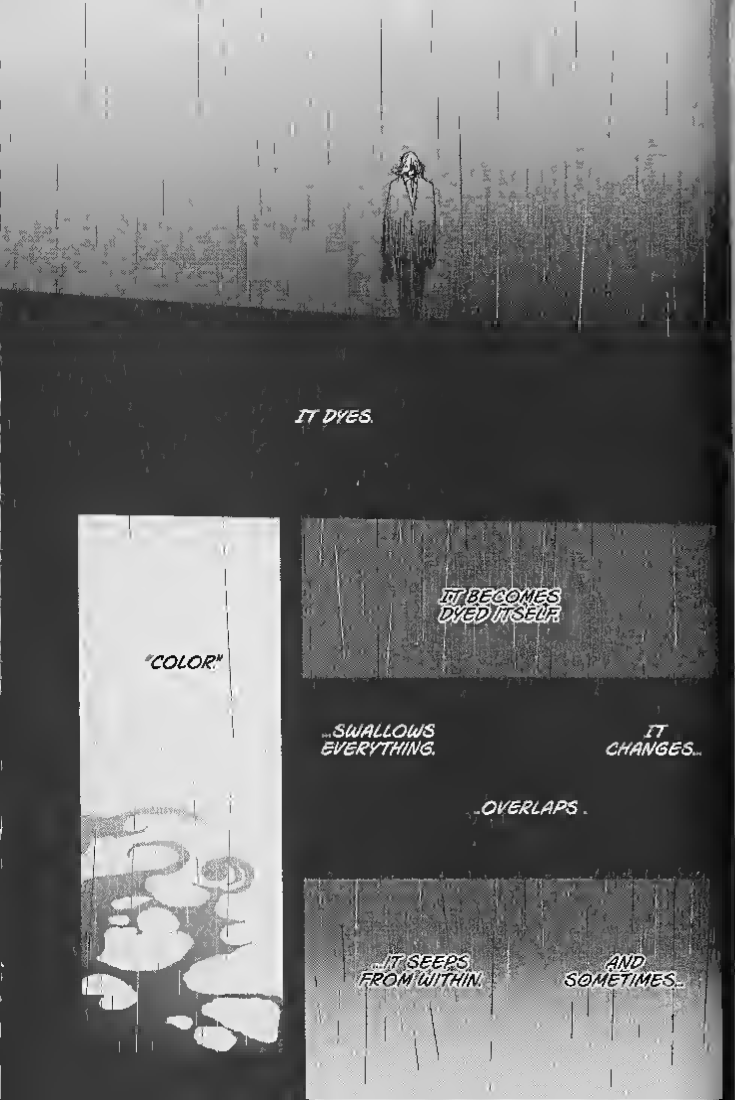
BUT THIS FORK THING IS NEW

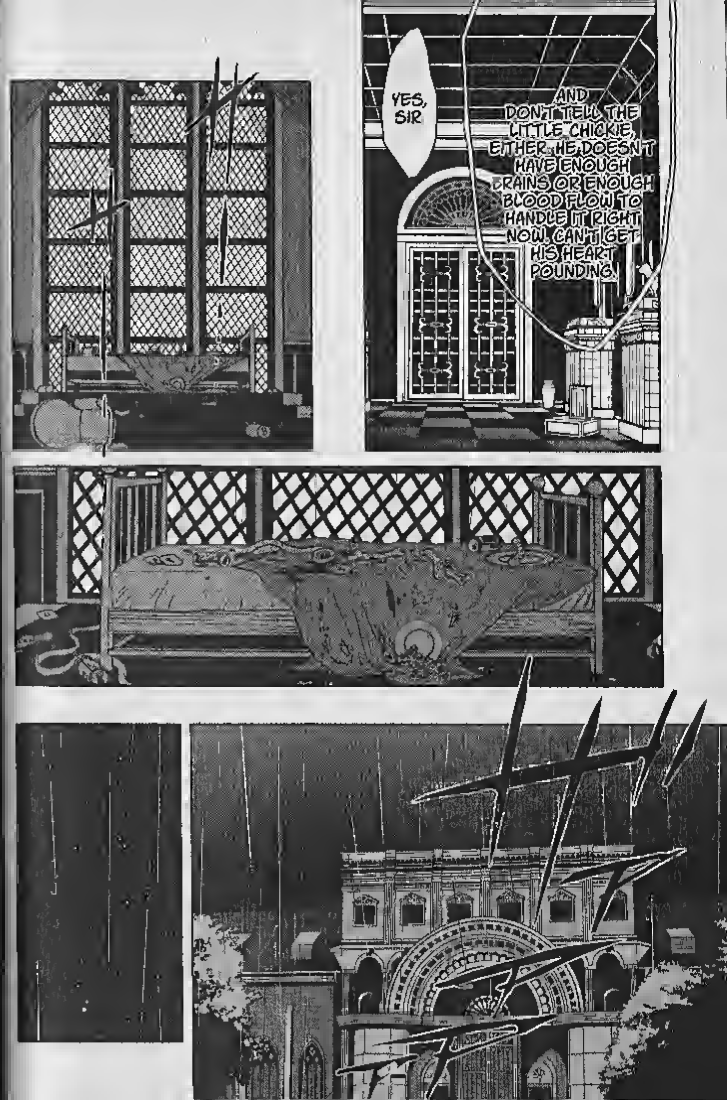
THE SECURITY HERE'S ALWAYS BEEN SKETCHY. THAT'S NO SURPRISE.
THE ALARM DIDN'T GO OFF, EITHER I KNOW THE SUB-SYSTEM IS SHUT DOWN, BUT THE MAIN SENSOR WAS STILL ON.


BUT HOW DID HE GET IT?
YEAH, IT'S HIS FAVORITE SILVERWARE.
THAT'S ARBITRO'S ...

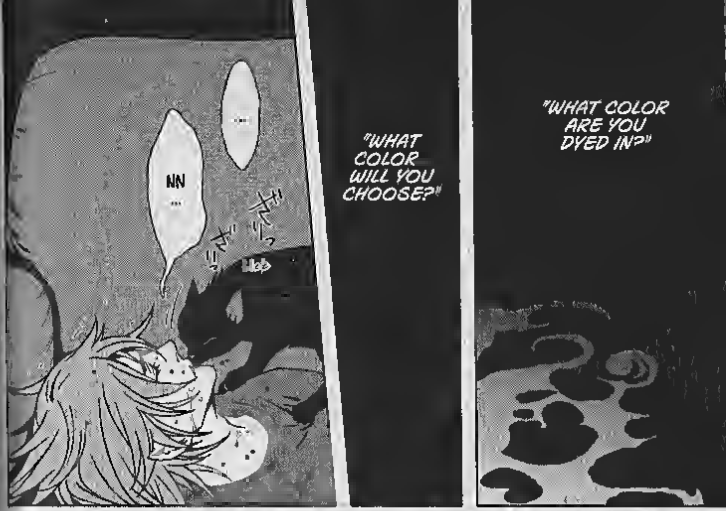
SHUT UP, OR I'LL FORK YOU, TOO.
WHAT?! YOU'RE SAYING IT WASN'T A HUMAN?!

MUST BE A GHOST, HUH?
ALL THE GUYS WHO'VE TRIED BUSTING IN HERE BEFORE CARRIED GUNS OR KATANA OR WHATEVER...


IT DYES.
"COLOR."
IT BECOMES DYED ITSELF.
...SWALLOWS EVERYTHING.
IT CHANGES...
...OVERLAPS.
...IT SEEPS FROM WITHIN.
AND SOMETIMES...


YES, SIR
AND DON'T TELL THE LITTLE CHICKIE, EITHER. HE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH BRAINS OR ENOUGH BLOOD FLOW TO HANDLE IT RIGHT NOW. CAN'T GET HIS HEART POUNDING.

AH..
UH
WOOF
THEY'RE RED-EYES!


"WHAT COLOR WILL YOU CHOOSE?"
NN
"WHAT COLOR ARE YOU DYED IN?"

HEY...!
NOT IN MY MOUTH!
CUT IT OUT!

SO MANY PLANTS -
WHERE AM I?

WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHO ...
...ARE YOU?
AH —
TWITCH!

THAT BLOOD.. THE "ANTI-NICOLE" WAS CREATED TO RIGHT THE SINS OF THIS WORLD
NO NEED TO WORRY
IT WILL NOT KILL ME

STOP IT!!
"YOUR BLOOD IS FATAL."

DO YOU..
UNDER STAND?
THERE ARE THINGS YOU SEE EVEN THOUGH YOU TRY NOT TO, AND THINGS YOU CANNOT SEE EVEN THOUGH YOU TRY...
WAIT
THEY WERE PURPLE BEFORE...
WEREN'T THEY?

MUWWW
WAIT!
Huh?

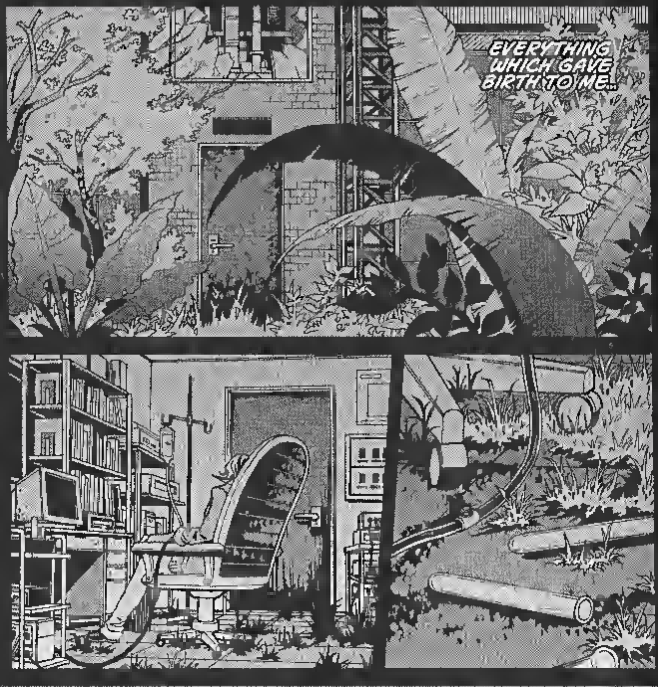
YOUR PRESENCE BRINGS "SALVATION."
WHAT?

. THERE CAN BE NO SALVATION
HOW-EVER, IN SIN ITSELF.

...THEY'RE BLUE.
HIS EYES...

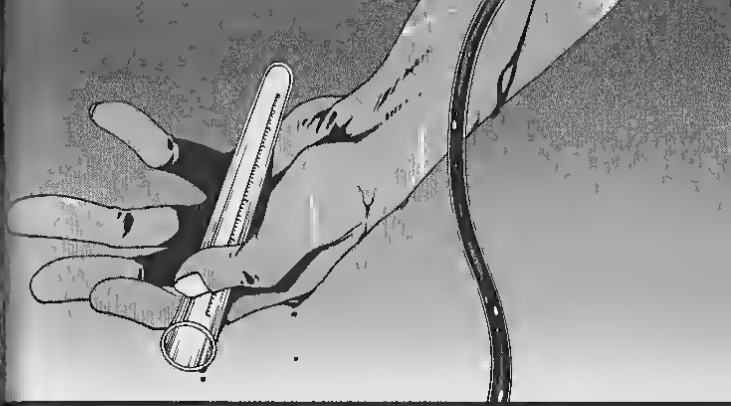
"COLOR."
IT DYES. IT BECOMES DYED ITSELF.

@IMME A BREAK.


EVERYTHING WHICH GAVE BIRTH TO ME...
SOON... IT WILL ALL END.
...

THIS BLOOD, WHICH I SO LOATHE...
HOWEVER...BLACK CANNOT BE DYED WITH ANY COLOR OTHER THAN BLACK.

...WHO SEARCH FOR IT SO DESPERATELY...
THE PEOPLE...



THIS BLOOD...

...IS NOTHING BUT A SYMBOL OF YOUR WEAKNESS.

There is only one way to break those chains...

吟狗の血

Staff-thanx

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